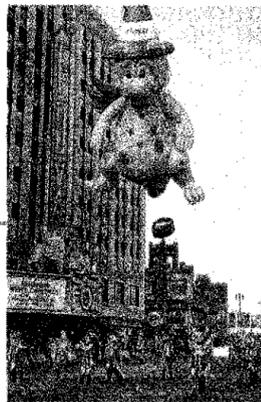


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THURSDAY
November 20, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mayor William Wild gives Santa Claus the key to the city and hearts of Westland youngsters as part of the ceremony.

City lights up the night for Santa Claus's arrival

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland mother Trina Manning and 6-year-old daughter Mya braved bone-chilling weather Monday evening to attend their first Christmas tree-lighting ceremony on City Hall's front lawn, an annual event that formally ushers in this community's holiday season.

Mya was a child of few words, although she did say she wanted a trendy Bratz Doll for Christmas, but Manning said she received an early gift when the price of gasoline fell sharply and helped out her holiday budget.

"That's a good Christmas present for everybody," Manning said, adding that she was going to have to curb

Please see **SANTA, A2**



Winner of the 'What Christmas Means to Me' essay contest Danielle Deel, 8, a third-grader at Hamilton Elementary, smiles as Deputy Mayor Courtney Conover reads her essay. Behind them is Mayor William Wild.

Recall group: City blocked efforts to get signatures

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A recall organizer who hopes to oust five Westland city leaders has accused local officials of unfairly blocking a citizens group from circulating recall petitions at school-based polling places on Election Day.

However, a Wayne-Westland school district official has said city officials gave accurate information about a policy that prohibits such politicking anywhere on school property.

"We don't take sides," Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman said. "We just enforce the policy."

Recall supporter Donna DeWitt called Monday for the resignations of Westland City Council President James Godbout, City Clerk Eileen DeHart, City Attorney Angelo Plakas and Mayor William Wild, accusing them of impeding a recall effort.

A recall group called Save Our Neighborhood hopes to oust Godbout, Wild and council members Michael Kehrer, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves for supporting a \$35 million senior citizen village on Joy Road east of Newburgh. The group claims the proposed development, including a three-story apartment building, is too massive for a neighborhood long defined by single-family homes.

DeWitt indicated this week that recall supporters had hoped to collect petition signatures outside of school polling places on Nov. 4, but she said city officials warned the group that it couldn't legally circulate petitions on school property.

DeWitt said "we will never know now" whether the group could have collected the 6,818 signatures it needs against each recall target. She said actions by city officials "cut us off at the knees."

She also accused Godbout of trying to stifle public comment during

city council meetings. But, Godbout pointed out that he has allowed recall supporters to bring their concerns to the podium even though he could enforce a city policy to stop campaigning at the meetings.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State spokeswoman Kelly Chesney confirmed Tuesday that state law prohibits politicking within 100 feet of polling places.

But, the Wayne-Westland school district has a more restrictive policy. While the district policy allows certain campaigning outside the 100-foot mark, such as distributing literature for candidates who are officially on the ballot, it prohibits other activity, such as circulating petitions for issues not on the ballot.

Sherman said recall supporters could have stood on public sidewalks — off of school property — to collect their signatures.

DeHart acknowledged that she explained the school district policy to recall supporters, and she added, "I don't set school policy."

DeWitt also has argued that certain city rules, such as limiting public speaking at meetings, shouldn't be enforced because the recall effort, in her opinion, will not officially become a "campaign" unless the signatures are collected and the issue is headed for a ballot question.

Godbout, however, said Plakas has indicated that a petition drive does amount to campaigning. Either way, the city is asking for an opinion from the state Attorney General's Office to clarify the issues.

City officials have previously said that there doesn't appear to be widespread support for a recall, but DeWitt and others had indicated that they believed they could collect the signatures they need to place the issue on a ballot.

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Circuit judge to hear appeal of W-W recall language

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two Wayne-Westland school board members will be in Wayne County Circuit Court on Friday to challenge the language being used on recall petitions circulating in the district.

"The question is whether or not the petitions are adequate under law in terms of clarity," said attorney Alan Canady who is representing school board President Martha Pitsenbarger and Vice President Skip Monit. "There was a split vote on the (elections) commission and we believe we have a credible argument."

The Wayne County Elections Commission voted 2-1 on Nov. 7 to approve recall petition language submitted by Wayne resident Shawn Maxwell.

"I'm not surprised by the appeal, Monit said he would and he sticks to his word," Maxwell said. "I don't know,

if at all, that they have a strong case."

The hearing will be before Chief Judge William J. Giovan who handles such appeals, according to Canady. He believes the judge will make a ruling "then and there."

"If he delays his ruling, we will ask for some type of stay or preliminary injunction to prevent them from collecting signatures, but I don't expect we'll have to do that," Canady added.

The recall language that was approved by the commission states that Pitsenbarger and Monit on Oct. 7 voted in favor of adopting hearing procedures "concerning the illegal withholding of services by the WWEA (Wayne-Westland Education Association) or any of its members," a reference to a four-day strike in early October by the district's teachers.

If the language holds up in court, it will be the same language that will be used in seeking recall of board Secretary Cindy Schofield and

Trustee William Gabriel. Maxwell had planned to file that language on Monday, but decided to wait until tomorrow.

She said the signature drive had a slow start, but it's "now getting up there" in collecting the necessary 6,012 valid signatures the Wayne County clerk says they need to force a recall election. The number of signatures needed for each school board member is tied to the percentage of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election.

Maxwell added that organizers have five communities in the district — Wayne, Westland, Inkster, Romulus and Canton — "covered" for collecting signatures.

"We're not having any problems getting them," Maxwell said. "Certain people aren't aware of the issue and don't want to sign, but others are and do."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112



MIKE QUILLINAN

Bipartisan support

Former Michigan governor William Milliken (center) with Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester (left) and House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, at the Michigan Political History Society's tribute dinner for the governor at Livonia's Laurel Manor Tuesday. Milliken had high praise for President-elect Barack Obama and offered optimism about the troubled economy. See story and more photos, Page A3.

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Coming Sunday:

Kids' health: 9 new findings
you must know

AROUND WESTLAND

Decoration contest

Westland City Council James Godbout has announced the city's Christmas decoration contest. Anyone who wants their home or a neighbor's home considered for prizes should contact the Westland City Clerk's Office by Dec. 1 by calling (734) 467-3191. Winners will receive a plaque and other recognition during a Westland City Council meeting in December.

Historic holiday

The public is invited to visit the city's historic Octagon House 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, to enjoy refreshments and see Santa Claus. Cameras may be brought along. The house is located at the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne between Marquette and Cherry Hill. The historic museum on the same site will be open 1-4 p.m. that day.

Blood drives

The Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union will hold an American Cross blood drive 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at its office at 500 S. Wayne Road south of Cherry Hill, Westland. To schedule an appointment, call Jenny Hale at (734) 721-5700. Walk-ins welcome.

The William P. Faust Public Library is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26. For

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

more information or to make a blood donation appointment, call (734) 326-6123. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren roads

Scrapbooking benefit

The Westland Jaycees will hold a scrapbooking event 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center behind Westland City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road. The event will help raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for the Bailey Center.

Lisa Graham, a Creative Memories consultant from Westland, will be on hand to help with all things photo related - from organizing photos and memorabilia to preserving memories in scrapbooks (both traditional and digital versions) or displaying them in your home.

Cost for One Hot Crop is \$20 and includes lots of table space and uninterrupted time to work on your projects, a fantastic goodie bag, snacks, lunch, tons of ideas and much more. All attendees will receive a free gift just for stopping by.

To register for the crop or for

more information, call Graham at (734) 718-5705 or online at www.myspace.com/onehotcrop. For more information on the Westland Jaycees, please call (734) 226-0400 or visit the club's Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.

Book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library will hold their last used book sale of the year Friday-Sunday, Nov. 21-23, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. The sale will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday with a bag sale noon-4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Card parties

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold a holiday card party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. There will be door prizes, 50/50 raffles, light meals and snacks. Bring your friends and play cards and games of your choice. Tickets cost \$8 and will be available at the door. Proceeds will go to the church building fund.

The church also will hold a Breast Cancer Awareness and Card Party 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Tickets for the smoke free event are \$8. There will be table prizes, 50/50 and door prizes. For tickets or reservations, call (734) 722-1343.

Warm Hearts 'shower' moms, moms-to-be

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Stuffed animals are among the presents that a local organization, Warm Hearts, gives to pregnant women or new mothers.

Small gifts can make a big difference for pregnant women or young mothers who lack basic necessities — and who in some cases are living in homeless shelters as they struggle to find a new path.

That's where Warm Hearts, a nonprofit group of volunteers from Westland, Redford, Plymouth, Wayne and other communities, comes in.

For four years now, Warm Hearts has solicited donations of blankets, bibs, baby wipes, shampoo, parenting magazines, children's books and other items that are given to needy mothers during one large baby shower hosted at the Westland-based Salvation Army.

"We're trying to warm the body, warm the spirit and make a difference in the world," said Warm Hearts organizer Carol Sharp of Westland.

The group recently sponsored its latest baby shower for 40 pregnant women or new mothers from age 16 into their 30s, providing them with gifts and words of encouragement during a time of need. The presents came in handmade tote bags made by Warm Hearts volunteers.

Warm Hearts also had prize drawings for larger gifts like strollers and baby clothes. Moreover, the organization brought in special speakers to talk with the women about issues like budgeting, self-esteem and helping babies sleep safely.

And, Sharp said that as the holiday season approaches, the organization also has geared up once again to donate stuffed animals with matching children's books, along with items like toothbrushes, to some of the Salvation Army locations in Detroit.

Warm Hearts gets help from local businesses and individual donors, and Sharp said the recent baby shower was made a success with help from places like Buffalo Wild Wings of Novi, Marquis Food Service of Westland and students from the Wayne-Westland school district's William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

In all, Warm Hearts has about 20 volunteers, and it could use more. To help or to find out what kind of donations the group needs, call Carol Sharp at (734) 595-8305.

SANTA

FROM PAGE A1

her holiday spending before she got some relief at the gas pump. "We were looking at nothing."

A crowd gathered in front of City Hall for what Mayor William Wild called "one of the great traditions" of Westland. City officials this year moved the ceremony from December to November to avoid what has often been a teeth-chattering experience.

That didn't work. The cold weather simply moved, too, but it didn't stop the crowd from enjoying a stirring reudi-

tion of *Silent Night* by saxophonist Steven Thomas, a new Christmas story read by local author Nancy Spinelle, a holiday sing-along led by the St. Damian Elementary School Choir, and the arrival of Santa Claus.

Eight-year-old Danielle Deel, a third-grader at Hamilton Elementary School, had her moment in the spotlight after winning a city-sponsored essay contest for *What Christmas Means to Me*. Aside from the typical fare of getting gifts and enjoying a family dinner, Danielle wrote that she is getting a special present this year — a new baby brother.

This year's ceremony also

brought help for families in need. It included a canned-goods drive, which is continuing at City Hall, and Salvation Army bell ringers stood outside to collect money for a holiday season that is expected to bring an uptick in calls for help, due to the increasing number of people who have lost their jobs and their homes.

On a lighter note, the event culminated with colorful lights being switched on to illuminate the City Hall grounds, and children had an opportunity to go next door to Fire Station No. 1 to visit with Santa and enjoy treats.

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Franklin drum major to perform in national halftime show

BY REBECCA JONES
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Franklin Marching Band drum major Brian Haw was chosen as one of the 97 members to perform in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl halftime show early next year.

Haw, a senior who wants to become a music teacher, will join nine other musicians from

Michigan performing Jan. 3 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl features the nation's top 90 high school football players in an East vs. West showdown telecast live on NBC. (In the eight years the game has been played, both teams are tied with four victories each.)

Last year, the marching band was formed.

Haw, a baritone player, was nominated by his music teacher, Kristi Jasin. He also submitted a video of himself performing a piece of music.

"I heard it was all-expenses paid, so there's nothing to lose," Haw said. He found out a few months ago that he'd been selected.

Members of the selection committee visited Franklin on Monday morning to bestow the honor to Haw before his band members, classmates, fans and family. They presented him with a jacket and hat.

"It was a nice program," Jasin said. "(Haw has) shown his dedication and leadership thought this whole season."

Jasin said Haw stepped up as

a leader earlier this year when she was out with health issues.

"We're thrilled for him to get this opportunity," she said.

In another boost for the band, Jasin was named outstanding educator of the year by the Michigan Competitive Band Association earlier this month.

In addition to marching band, Haw performs with the symphonic and jazz hands and is helping to organize the district-level solo and ensemble through the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, which will take place just a few weeks after he returns from San Antonio in January.

Michigan has the largest contingency of musicians selected for the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. In addition to Haw, there are two from Plymouth-Canton schools, two from Walled Lake, two from Jenison, and one each from Flushing, and West Bloomfield.

Michigan also has two athletes who will play in the game, from Oak Park and Cass Tech high schools.

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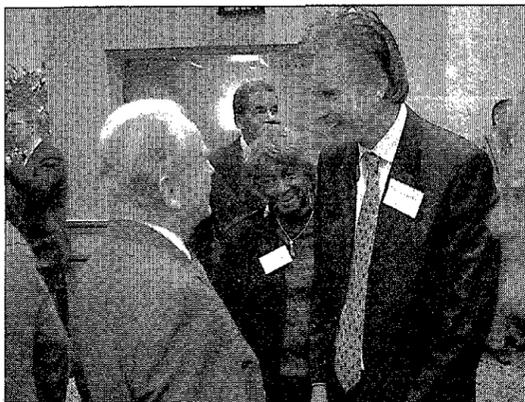
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Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, has a talk with former Gov. William Milliken. Looking on is state Sen. Martha Scott, D-Detroit.

Republicans and Democrats praise Milliken's leadership

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tuesday night at Livonia's Laurel Manor was like a high school reunion for politicians and political journalists. They had come to honor William Milliken, Michigan's longest-serving governor, who has come to symbolize civility, bipartisanship and devotion to public service. Milliken, 86, who served from 1969 to 1982, was honored by the Michigan Political History Society. Previous honorees were longtime Attorney General Frank Kelley, former House Co-Speaker Paul Hillegonds and former Gov. James Blanchard. Politicians and journalists from the Milliken era exchanged handshakes, hugs and laughs as they caught up on lost time and reminisced about their days in Lansing. The formal presentations combined some mild roasting with heartfelt tributes to the man admired as much for his demeanor as his progressive Republican politics. "Bill Milliken represents civility in government and he was in fact the most civil of individuals, he would listen to both sides," said former U.S. Rep. Joe Schwarz prior to the presentation. "He was decisive but never offensive, all the things that people today should strive to be."

That theme was struck time and again by the evening's speakers and demonstrated in Milliken's response. "It is so good to be here in this room with all of you. I have been deeply moved by your friendship and the words spoken tonight," Milliken said. Democrat Frank Kelley, 85, Michigan's attorney general from 1961 to 1998, began the evening's tributes. He said he and Milliken came from dif-

ferent backgrounds but were both inspired by their fathers to become public servants. Kelley praised Milliken's political courage. "He actually led a battle to raise Michigan's taxes that all economists agreed were needed at the time," Kelley said. "He raised taxes, that takes courage and if you don't believe me, ask Andy Dillon." But Kelley, too, spotlighted Milliken's personality. "He was always even-handed and a perfect gentleman in relations with others, and he trusted the opposition party and treated the opposition with fairness," Kelley said. Former Republican Party chairman William McLaughlin called Milliken "the best candidate in the nation to work with on the Republican side," especially in 1974 in the midst of the Watergate scandal. David Baker Lewis spoke about the special relationship between Milliken and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. He said there was a common wisdom that Republican governors and Democratic big city mayors would always be at odds. "William Milliken shattered that stereotype as he did many others," Lewis said. "Relations with the city were the best they could have been. The governor and mayor were known as the odd couple and not because they were at odds."



Former governor William Milliken chats with longtime Attorney General Frank Kelley at the tribute dinner for Milliken Tuesday. Kelley was one of the speakers.

Former Milliken aides Keith Molin, Joyce Braithwaite-Brickley and Bill Rustem offered their views of the man who has come to symbolize moderate Republicanism in Michigan. Rustem said Milliken was a Republican of another era, in the heritage of Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower. Milliken was in strong voice, belying his years, and offered some strong views on today's political landscape. He praised the Michigan Political History Society, which was formed 15 years ago to preserve Michigan's political history. "The society's efforts are helping foster a greater understanding and perspective on what has happened in the past and what is happening now in the field of public policy," he said. Milliken reminded the audience that his last year in office was also a time of severe recession. "Those were very difficult times, I shall never forget, but we got through them," he said. "I think most of us would agree that despite our current difficulties there is

optimism and hope in this nation tonight. That optimism stems directly from our recent national election. I believe it was a great day for our country and the world that we elected a man of the caliber of Barack Obama to be our next president." He said he is impressed by how Obama ran his campaign and the deliberate approach he is taking in forming his administration. "I believe he will be a president who will see beyond pure partisanship and appeal to our highest natures," he said. "As a Republican, I am glad we have made this incredible move at this time in our history." He remembered his relationship with Coleman Young warmly. "We had our differences to be sure. They could be intense at times, but we were able to resolve them and retain civility and mutual respect," he said. He said when Young used a particularly offensive 12-letter word to describe him, the mayor called immediately the next day to say the word was really "an endearment." "I took his word," Milliken said.

Milliken was critical of the partisanship in state government and what he called political pandering at a time when the state's services are being severely cut. He laid some blame on term limits. "I know of no other line of work where inexperience is

considered an asset," he said. But he said he is optimistic that the recent elections are a sign that progressive politics. Milliken attended the dinner with his wife Helen. hgallagher@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2149

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This volatile stock market requires patience and discipline

How to explain it? Mid-afternoon the stock market is in an all too common downturn and then it recoups its losses and is up 500 points by close. The very next day the market is down 300 points.

It doesn't make sense. This is a time when fear and irrational behavior — rather than the fundamentals of the market — appear to be the norm. To make sense out of the wild swings on Wall Street is nearly impossible. There are issues in our economy but on

any given day it is impossible to figure out why the markets react the way they do.

Years ago when the market was booming, many individuals began to day trade — buying and selling on a daily basis. Unfortunately, I have started to hear that because of the volatility in the markets many people are starting to do some day trading. To me, day trading is nothing more than gambling. I don't believe in "gambling" with your investment dollars.

There are people who make money on day trading, however, it's similar to saying that buying lottery tickets is a good investment because there are many winners. Studies show the majority of people who get involved in day trading lose a substantial portion of their

money. The reality is only a few gamblers actually make money, the same can be said for day trading.

There is no doubt that investors are apprehensive and concerned about their portfolios. However, investors should resist the temptation to get involved with either investments or investment strategies that are gimmicky. In today's market, there are many hustlers who are pouncing on investors, encouraging them to move money in order to take advantage of the current market conditions. My advice is be extremely cautious.

It is important during volatile times that investors do not make rash and emotional decisions. After all, the market conditions today may not

be the same market conditions just a few months down the road.

If I told you back in July when gas was more than \$4.50 a gallon that in just a few months you'd be paying under \$2 a gallon, most would have said that's impossible. Experts were predicting gas prices would plummet. Market and economic conditions in today's world change rapidly and that is why investors need to be cautious.

We have been through numerous financial crises in our country's history and have always worked our way through them. Whether it was difficult times after the start of World War II when our country was losing the war, the housing market was crum-

bling and the federal government was incurring massive debt to fund the war, or the stock market crash of 1987, the markets and our economy have always rebounded over a relatively short period of time. I am a believer in the American economy — not out of blind pride — but based upon the facts.

During this crisis many experts seem to suggest that our economy will go through an extremely difficult period like the Japanese did just a few years ago. Although there are similarities, it is important to recognize that our form of capitalism and our economy is unlike that of Japan. The U.S. economy is not only the largest economy in the world, it is the most flexible and this remains one

our strengths. I have no idea when the current difficulties will end and when markets will rebound. I don't have the answer and neither does anyone else. However, I do know what history has shown and that is that markets do rebound faster than most people anticipate.

It is a difficult time for investors, however, be assured it will improve. Investors who show discipline and patience will be rewarded.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money-matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

fundamentals of the market — appear to be the norm. To make sense out of the wild swings on Wall Street is nearly impossible. There are issues in our economy but on

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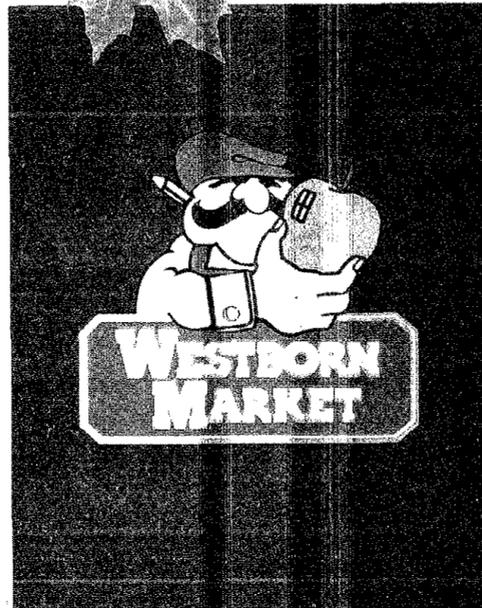
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OUR VIEWS

Spread cheer, give generously

Christmas is still more than a month away, but in some stores it was the holiday season well before Halloween. Retailers are bracing for what the National Retail Federation is predicting will be the worst holiday shopping season in six years.

But as shoppers scale back on their purchases this Christmas season, there's one thing they need to do more: Put money in the Salvation Army's Red Kettles.

The bell ringing campaign literally kicked off last week at Laurel Park Place with the help of the Radio City Rockettes. The Salvation Army's goal for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties is \$8.5 million.

The Salvation Army uses 83 cents of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need every day of the year. And the need is greater than ever. The Wayne-Westland Corps which serves Wayne, Westland, Inkster and Romulus, will help 600 families this holiday season. It hopes to raise \$130,000 to help families that are in desperate need of assistance.

So the Salvation Army has two wishes this holiday season: People will give more than ever to help those in need and will volunteer to give two hours of their time to be a bell ringer. If volunteers fill every slot available, the Salvation Army will be able to use the money it spends to hire bell ringers on those in need.

Our apologies to John Branford, but his saying — with a slight change — seems quite apropos: "There but for the grace of God goes you." Those of us who have need to help those who don't have.

Now is the time to get involved. Volunteer to ring the bell. Do it on your own or grab some friends or family members to help. The Salvation Army has made it easy. Visit its Web site at www.ringbells.org and click on Wayne-Westland. Bell ringing opportunities are available at all of its sites. If you can't ring a bell, give generously. Forget the small change, give dollars ... lots of dollars.

You can also volunteer to help with the Angel Tree at Westland Shopping Center where mall patrons by purchasing a gift for a child or participate in the Corps' Adopt-A-Family program. Spread holiday cheer and goodwill beyond your social circle by providing food and toys for a family for Christmas. Call Sandy Kollinger at (734) 722-3660.

This holiday season we urge you to put a Ho-Ho-Ho in the lives of the less fortunate by helping the Salvation Army. Help ring a bell and give generously when you see one. What you give today maybe given back to you tomorrow.

Banish the gloom with bright shopping venues

The forecasts are gloomy, and it's not the unseasonably cold weather that economists are talking about.

Rather, they're gritting their teeth at the prospect of a lean holiday shopping season. So lean will it be, they're predicting, that sales could be in the negative column, meaning a decrease in sales from previous years.

That's where suburban shoppers come in. Let's face it: We're all feeling the pinch of higher utility bills and stagnant wages, so where we spend our dollars this season is more important than ever.

After all, it's the trickle-down effect. The state economy needs tax revenue from healthy retail sales, and to stay in business — and employ thousands of us during the season — retailers need your business.

There's no need, however, for suburban shoppers to grit their teeth this holiday season. There are plenty of reasons to shop locally that go well beyond keeping the local economy healthy.

There's nothing like seeing a purchase up close and personal, whether it be to check out the right color for a sweater, or to make sure the features on Wii and Guitar Hero are what you expected.

Besides, when you shop in your hometown, there are no pricey shipping and handling charges that buyers encounter online. Those two items don't exactly put you in a holiday mood.

Shopping close to home, though, offers a perfect chance to get in the holiday spirit. Shoppers, and the youngsters who tag along, often thrill to the child-sized train rides at the Oakland Mall in Troy and Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Holiday festivals, such as at the one Dec. 6 at Willow Creek Shopping Plaza in Canton, and like the Lagniappe on Dec. 1, with the Big Bright Light Show in Rochester, give buyers just a little something extra with their purchases.

Everyone loves a bargain, and forecasters predict there will be plenty of those to warm up to this holiday season. So buy locally and make this season merry and bright for all.



Trustees not best for schools

Both Martha Pitsenbarger and Lorne (Skip) Monit have decided to ignore the wishes of our community and defend their decisions in paying exorbitant amounts to administrators. When our superintendent acknowledges that his yearly total compensation package is around \$253,000 (and this amount could be more!) and both Pitsenbarger and Monit think this amount is reasonable and defend what they pay him, I can only come to the conclusion that they are not the best people to represent this community.

I urge this community to check out Michigan House Bill 4796, School Employees Salary Cap. The brief summary of this bill is that it would set a salary cap for public school employees, so that a public school employee could not be paid more than the total compensation set for the governor of the state.

In this bill it states: Some have pointed out that the governor of Michigan has responsibility to oversee 20 executive branch agencies employing more than 50,000 people, a budget of \$42 billion, and is paid an annual salary of \$177,000 to do so. They recommend that school superintendents' salaries be capped at the governor's salary, since their responsibilities are far fewer.

Both Pitsenbarger and Monit allow the taxes that we are paying, which should be used to support this school system and the education of its children, to be misused. They are allowing administrators to line their pockets with the monies, spending money on the type of improvements that aren't necessary, while forgetting about our children and what is REALLY NECESSARY to give our kids a QUALITY EDUCATION!

I urge all voters to support the current recall campaign. It is time we took back our control over what happens to our children of this community!

Melissa O'Neil
Westland

Let election process work

As a member of this community, and someone who has been around kids for many years, I want to address the recall. First, the people that are asking for the recall, you have that right, and second I think that if they have done something wrong, let the political process work the way it should.

I think that if we have a special election at the cost of over \$60,000, that is a lot of money, and I THINK, money that could be used in a much better way. I have been told that it could go towards a teachers salary, or back to the kids for stuff the school needs. I don't think, however, that is where it would go. This is where I am confused.

If you want to rid yourself of people that were elected, then wait until the elections in May and cast your vote,

LETTERS

either in support of or non-support. That is your right, but I feel at this time in our history and I think we are at the doorstep of a depression, the special election money could work in better ways. So whatever you do, think about the kids and the school district.

I understand stuff in the schools people don't like — class sizes too big, etc. — but this can be worked out and waiting a few months for the election is not too much to ask for. So in May cast your vote. Let's save SOME taxpayer money and do the right thing at that time.

Bud Somerville
Westland

Build better cars

The Big Three prospered competing with each other. Vehicles needed to be large for big family vacations with enough power to tow campers or boats. Fuel was inexpensive and the behemoths protected the family.

Unions were a problem, striking when new model production began. Solution: Surrender and raise prices. If arbitration was required, management always loses.

Environmentalists and government decided tailpipe emissions must stop NOX, CO, and even CO2. No one knew how. Ignition timing must be faster to control one problem, but slower to control another. Engine temperature must be hotter, but cooler. Tampering reduced mpg efficiency by nearly 50 percent.

Congress ordered automobiles to get better mileage, and the popular land cruisers were effectively outlawed. Four cylinder Chevettes, Corvairs, Falcons and Valiants were rushed to market. Germany's VW and the Japanese Honda CVCC seized the opportunity — this was their turf.

Government protection limited quantities of imports, so Japan and Germany concentrated on quality. Government limited import content, and the Japanese opened factories in the U.S. producing quality cars in non-union states.

Congress now demands much higher mileage (as though management never thought about that) in return for a multibillion dollar bailout. Congress has done too much already.

Personally, I owned excellent vehicles: 1931 Model A Ford, 1937 Plymouth, 1947 and 1950 Hudsons. Problem vehicles: 1966 Ford Econoline (bad engine), 1970 Chevrolet Nova (engine), 1969 and 1978 Ford Econolines (transmissions), 1979 Chevrolet Malibu (three bad engines), 1983 Buick Century (worst vehicle ever made). My 1991 Ford Aerostar still runs, but the limited slip rear axle slipped from day one. Ford won't talk to me about it.

I purchased a little 1988 Acura. It was perfect for 10 years, with only a little rust. Our 1998 Subaru transmission was replaced, no charge, and this gem does not even have rust.

American automobiles may now be excellent. Made in Japan has been a better experience for many.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Make schools diabetic safe

For children with diabetes, managing their condition is a full-time job. Their daily tasks include monitoring their blood sugar levels several times and often taking multiple insulin shots. For these children, proper management of their condition is not a choice, it's an absolute necessity. Keeping blood sugar levels under control enables kids to live healthier and more productive lives at school and at play and to avoid health complications.

Unfortunately, students with diabetes are often left with no assistance in caring for their condition at school. This is why it's so important for the Michigan Legislature to pass House Bill 6555, prompted by the American Diabetes Association's Safe at School Campaign and supported by the Michigan Diabetes Outreach Network, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The legislation will allow diabetic students to bring necessary personal equipment to school to monitor their condition during class or school-related activities.

The legislation will also ensure that schools have personnel to assist with daily and emergency diabetes care tasks. All too often, a single nurse is assigned to cover as many as 10 schools. Even when schools have a full-time nurse, they are not always available, especially during field trips and extracurricular activities. By training school personnel to perform diabetes care tasks, students will safely get help when a nurse is not present.

I am going to contact my state representative and state senator and encourage them to support the Safe at School Campaign. I hope you will do the same.

Brock Varner
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"We want to make it an educational place and a place where veterans of all eras can come and have peace, solitude and even closure."

— Kenneth Mehí of the Westland Veterans Association about a Veterans Memorial Garden proposed for land on the east side of Friendship Lake in Central City Park

WESTLAND
Observer
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

FROM THE WEB

Here is a sampling of comments posted on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com:

■ Regarding our editorial urging the legislature to act on a smoking ban in public places:

bigcmg wrote:

There should not be a complete ban on smoking. Smokers and non-smokers should be able to choose where they want to go to eat shop or hang out.

Working environments are different but they should be able to smoke at least in a section for smokers only.

But hey, let's not forget the helmet and seat belt laws to should they also get to make the choice for us?

What about abortion?

vbarra wrote:

Ban Smoking in Public places, absolutely! Any place funded by taxpayer dollars. Ban Smoking at privately owned and funded businesses, absolutely Not! We still have the freedom of choice in this country to patronize or not patronize privately owned businesses based on the products and services they provide. If you don't like smoking I'm fine with that and individuals have the freedom of choice "Not" to enter any place they find objectionable. The same could be said for workers, if they don't like smoking workplaces, don't apply for the jobs. At what point did privately owned businesses become "Public Places" anyhow. Legislating behavior is at best a slippery slope and should be avoided lest we find ourselves with fewer freedoms than the communists. To say that businesses in Canada were not adversely effected by the no smoking ban several years ago is misleading. Why is it that a casino closed down and 8 of 12 bingo halls were put out of business as a result of their fine legislation?

jmckinney wrote:

As much as I hate to say it, I have to agree with vbarra. And, yes, seat belts and helmets should be a choice. Since when does the government have the right to make choices for me or anyone else? As a parent I don't make decisions for my children who are all over 21 and neither did my parents. When you own a business, you should make the choices. When you get in a car or on a bike, you should be worrying about driving defensively and not about what to do when you have an accident. Seats belts and helmets can protect you and they can also cause death or more serious injuries. It all depends on the accident. They shouldn't have happened to begin wit, but since were human and not robots accidents do happen. The main point being it should be a choice. And to bigcmg, you're right. They should be able to go where they want, but they shouldn't be able to tell a business owner if they can allow smoking or not. If they don't like it, they don't have to enter. By the way, I'm a non-smoker.

■ Regarding citizens' comments made at the November Wayne-Westland school board meeting:

polyglot1947 wrote:

Three cheers for the parents/citizens devoted to the issues of the Wayne-Westland School Board members! They continue to speak as a voice for the voiceless, children of the district shoved into cramped classrooms.

If Board members are giving approval to the superintendent's salary without looking at the dollar amounts (a real shame), it is no wonder that all the other non-essential beautification projects sail right through the approval of the board. No one is keeping an eye on the purse strings.

Is it not the primary role of a school board to be vigilant and observant on how money is being spent? If these Board members are just rubber stamping all the decisions, who is watching out for fraud or mismanagement?

It should go without saying that if you run for school board, you will keep a keen eye on the hired members of the administration, to make sure that they are not over-stepping the boundaries of their jobs.

Obama speaks about change. Let's bring change to WWCS!

■ Regarding the city using nearly \$2.1 million in new federal dollars to demolish or renovate dilapidated homes and build new housing in the Norwayne subdivision:

redbudfarm wrote:
I think this is a great idea, especially for the surrounding areas, where property values declined because of the association to Norwayne. This is an area that could be a fantastic area to raise a family. However, I have not heard mention of the crime in this area. This is another problem that the city has to be aggressive with. If the city does not get a grip on the crime in all of Westland, we will be doomed. Maybe we should have more neighborhood watch groups. Anyway, I still love Westland, and think its the best place to live.

■ Regarding singer/activist Harry Belafonte being the keynote speaker at the American Civil Liberties of Michigan Annual Dinner Saturday

ess796 wrote:
Ironic for the ACLU to honor someone who has repeatedly given visible and vocal support to Hugo Chavez, the dictator of Venezuela, who has systematically eroded civil liberties in that nation and is an avowed enemy of the United States.

Belafonte's about as far left as they come. The ACLU certainly isn't doing itself any favors here from my point of view.

dogderam wrote:
"recently added two priority areas: Religion Values"

Basically they're out to oppress Christianity any way they can. It's happening in schools all over the country. What happened to the 1st amendment protecting our religious views? "and the Michigan Racial Economic Justice Initiative"

More Barack socialism. Let's give money to poor minorities who didn't earn it because we want to feel good about ourselves.

Community Living Services, turning dreams into reality

When you think of housing lately ... well, it has been just plain depressing.

Those of us fortunate to own a home are watching the value drop like a rock. And far too many Michigianians and Americans are losing their homes to foreclosure at a rate that is unmatched or unseen since the Great Depression.



Tom Watkins

Michigan has been leading the parade of the economic death march for longer than other parts of the country, but it seems everyone else is catching up quickly. Yet, like the guy complaining about not being able to afford a new pair of shoes until

seeing the man with no feet, I feel lucky to still have my home, health care and income.

Attending a ribbon cutting ceremony of a new house being built to provide a home for people with disabilities snapped me out of my funk. The opening of a new home that will provide people with disabilities the opportunity for greater hope and dignity was a burst of sunshine on an overcast gray day. It was a grand reminder that in spite of all the challenges at the national and state level, there are good things happening in our communities every day.

Homes like the one recently opened in Westland and celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony have also opened throughout the metro area. They have opened in Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Garden City, Redford, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Southfield, Novi, Northville, Detroit and Dearborn.

Liberty Hill Housing corporation, ably led by its Executive Director Peggy Frankie, is a subsidiary of Community Living Services under the direction of Jim Dehem. Both organizations are headquartered in Wayne. With vision, drive and leadership, this dynamic duo has turned dreams of people with disabilities living in our communities into a reality.

Yet, both Frankie and Dehem are quick to point out that every home that opens is the result of teamwork and a cooperative community spirit and determination from their partners in federal, state and local governments as well as nonprofit agencies. Dehem praised Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Board, and local mayors and city councils that, together with local affiliates of the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC), made "another

dream come true."

Just 30 years ago these same individuals were warehoused out of sight and often out of mind, at a great fiscal and moral cost, in vile, inhumane and costly state institutions.

These homes are monuments to how far we have come as a society in treating our fellow man. And it also shows how Liberty Hill, by leveraging federal, state and local resources, worked in partnership with such progressive leaders as Ficano and Mayors William Wild of Westland and Hilliard Hampton Jr. of Inkster

Mayor Wild captured the excitement of the day when he said, "It is great to see new homes and new people coming to our community to add value and take part in all the great attributes Westland has to offer our citizens." Wild's director of Housing and Community Development, Joanne Inglis, added, "It is great to partner with Community Living Services, the ARC and Liberty Hill to build quality homes for people."

Jim Dehem and I worked together in the late 1970s and early 1980s, helping to break down the barriers of discrimination by moving people with developmental disabilities back into their communities. Having sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, that were "wards of the state" return to their community is like watching the words of our Constitution where all people were free to "pursue, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" leap from concept to reality.

Watching the smile on Jim Dehem's face as men and women he knew, and that were institutionalized as teens and young adults, gathered to celebrate the freedom of a new home for their friends was like a floodlight illuminating the joy of the day. Dehem exclaimed, "This is another freedom step for people with disabilities."

While the homes may be brick and mortar to some, they represent a Neil Armstrong moment "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind" to those that once suffered the indignities of being incarcerated in state mental health facilities and nursing centers.

There is much to give thanks for that takes place throughout the beautiful hometown communities that we all call home. Yes, "Home Sweet Home!"

Tom Watkins is an education and business consultant. He served the state as superintendent of schools, 2001-05, Mental Health director, 1986-90 and a member of the Wayne County Charter Commission, 1980-82. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

- Advertisement -

Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people hear from their own doctors that nothing can be done for their eye disease, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "I devise special glasses to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to see. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are."

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement," Dr. Smith explained. Michigan is one of 46 states that allow biopic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Don Liptak, age 74 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last January. Don had macular degeneration and was on strong chemotherapy for leukemia. Don had 20/60 vision and sought help with reading,



Don Liptak wearing driving telescopes

driving and the computer. The doctor prescribed a system of three low vision aids that addressed all of Don's objectives.

"These are better for the computer than anything else I've tried," Don said. "Last week I went out in my '66 Mustang convertible and the glasses helped me see things far away. It's hard losing your independence but these glasses make my life easier."

Many activities require their own unique device, such as reading and driving. The extent of each system varies as people have differing visual ability and range of interests. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and most custom telescopes cost from \$1800 to \$2500. Interest free financing is available.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Smith, "so I help patients do what matters most to them. We train patients to use their remaining vision and their devices to meet the challenges of daily living. Also safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further sight loss."

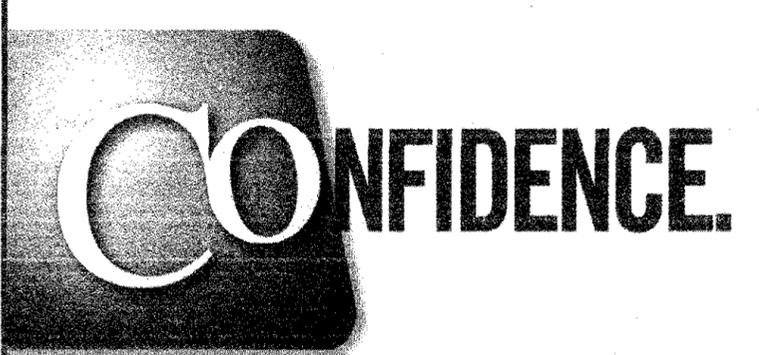
If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help improve quality of life. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at **1-877-677-2020**.

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren and Greater Lansing. Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

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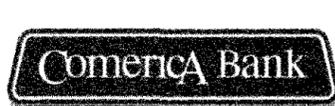
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Dining winner connects with Channel 95.5's Mojo

Sarah Mikhael of Troy and Mojo of Mojo in the Morning have a lot in common. Both are the children of immigrants who came to the United States looking for a better life. Both call their parents heroes.

Mikhael got to share her family's story at lunch with her favorite morning radio personalities Monday at Buddy's in Farmington Hills. Mojo, who came to Detroit and Channel 95.5 in February 2000, is one of metro Detroit's most popular personalities.

Mikhael was the first winner of this year's Dining with The Stars promotion sponsored by Buddy's and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

"I guess I can relate to Mojo's father's experience about coming from another country and trying to get established in America," wrote Mikhael in her winning entry.

"I was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and my parents and I came to the United States when I was around 4 years old (I'm 24 now). We had to flee Lebanon because my dad (who is a pastor) wrote some controversial books.

"If we didn't leave Lebanon, my father, mother and I would

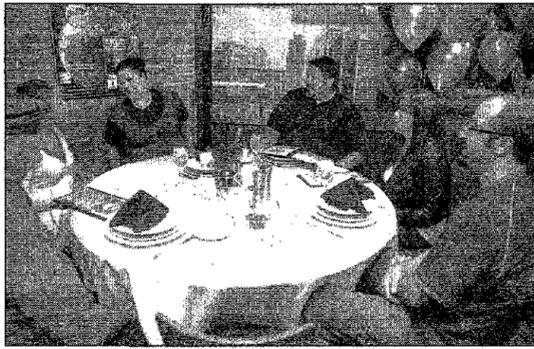
have all been killed.

"Starting all over is hard. But we made it through. My dad continued being a pastor and now has the largest Arabic-speaking church outside of the Middle East right here in Detroit. He also became a radio and TV personality on the Arabic talk show station 680 AM and on the Arabic satellite TV station," Mikhael wrote, adding that her mom received a doctorate in biochemistry from Wayne State and works at General Motors, while she has a bachelor's degree (double major) in nursing and health services administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. She is currently working on a master's degree.

Mikhael works at the Detroit Medical Center and does some modeling on the side for Lebanese ads.

"I have been playing the piano for 18 years and just started teaching it two years ago. Having said all of this, my parents are also my heroes. They went through some tough times to make life better for me and for themselves," Mikhael wrote.

Her parents left late last month for Iraq to start an English-speaking school for



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dining With The Stars October winner Sarah Mikhael, second from right, sits down for lunch with the Mojo in The Morning crew at Buddy's Pizzeria in Farmington Hills.

young children.

"It is a billion-dollar project, but they are determined to complete it. Their determination and faith is what keeps me going every day. I would love to sit down with Mojo and the crew and see what helps keep them going throughout their life."

She got her wish.

"Sarah was thrilled with her entire Dining With The Stars experience," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's. "Mojo, Kyra and producer Rachel arrived with Sarah ... then, Mojo's best friend appeared at Buddy's to join in the festivities. The party was complete when Mojo invited the limo driver, Gary, to join in, too.

"The Fred Astaire dancers performed and invited Mojo

and Sarah to dance ... they were great," Brontman added.

"This was certainly a fun group and our winner was like one of the crew. Mojo, I must say, can and does light up the room, and has that 'real deal' heart to back him up. He is warm, kind and funny," Brontman said, adding that it was a pleasure to present Mojo with a \$500 contribution for Covenant House.

In addition to lunch, Mikhael was treated to a limo ride courtesy of Class Plus Limo; mini-makeover by Sebastian and Heba of I Design Salon and Spa in Dearborn; \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield; and dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

You could lunch with Purtan's People

The lucky winner of this month's Dining With the Stars will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan and Purtan's People (Big Al Muskavito, Jackie Purtan, Dana Mills, Rebekah Rhodes, John "Ankles" Stewart, Larry Lawson and news anchor Dana Mills) of WOMC-FM.



Purtan

Tell us in 100 words or less why you want to have lunch with Dick Purtan, the dean of Detroit radio, and his zany morning show crew at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.

In addition to lunch, the winner will be treated to a limo ride courtesy of Class Plus Limo, mini-makeover by Sebastian and Heba of I Design Salon and Spa in Dearborn, \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills. Dining With the Stars is

co-sponsored by Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Dick Purtan is one of Michigan's most recognized on-air personalities. As host of 104.3 WOMC's Morning Show with Purtan's People, he entertains his loyal listeners with comedic commentary and topical wit.

Purtan's work also has been recognized on a national level. He has twice been named *Billboard Magazine's* "Major Market Air Personality of the Year" and is the winner of radio's top prize, The National Association of Broadcasters MARCONI Award as "Major Market Air Personality of the Year." In 2006, Purtan was inducted into the National Association of Broadcasting Hall of Fame in Las Vegas. Only one person in the radio industry is inducted each year.

For 21 years, his annual Salvation Army Radiothon has raised almost \$17 million for the Salvation Army's Bed & Bread program.

Dick Purtan and Purtan's People can be heard Monday through Friday on 104.3 WOMC from 5-10 a.m., and Saturdays from 6-10 a.m.

Get on the ball. Read today's SPORTS coverage!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: *Secured Self Storage*, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI November 29, 2008 at 1:10 p.m.

- #102 Micheal Golen Misc. Household Items
- #520 Gwendolyn Books Misc. Household Items
- #1105 Darryl Spearmon Misc. Household Items

Publish: November 13 and 20, 2008

OE08931974-202

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

Consideration of Resolution for Posting of Notice of Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Westland Planning Commission for the Year 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday December 2, 2008.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: November 20, 2008

OE0853462-202.5

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, *PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.* will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 11/29/2008 at 11:30am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 21905 Allen Park
- A016 Tracey Wilburn - boxes, bags, totes
- B028 Deborah Coe - boxes, bags, totes
- B048 Keyanna Wafford - boxes, bags, totes
- B061 Anaka Vanderbilt - mattress, shelf, dresser
- B070 Elliot King - boxes, bags, bed
- B078 Lakisha Jones - boxes, bags, totes
- B097 Margaret Mercing - boxes, totes, table
- B128 Dwain Puryear - boxes, bags, totes
- B149 John Mason - boxes, bags, totes
- B157 David Petty - box, fan, dresser
- B183 Victor Moss - tv, dresser, bed
- B198 Donna Ullmann - fan, box, tote
- B226 ADT Security Services Curuty Services - boxes, bags, totes
- B266 John Rinas - box, lights, washer
- B330 Sheldon Turley - suitcase, box, bag
- B353 Dave Smith - boxes, bags, totes
- B370 Robert Young - bags
- C013 Ted Koneskey - boxes, bags, totes
- D030 Aaron Daniels - boxes, bags, totes

Publish: November 13 & 20, 2008

OE09031470-204

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, *PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.* will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 11/29/08 at 10:30 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 7001- Tammy Amezcua - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3042- Erma Austin - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3051- Michael Bailey - Box, Bag, Tote
- 7108- Deonte Barber - Box, Bag, Tote
- 6037- Tracie Breuer - Box, Bag, Tote
- 7130- Tisha Goree - Box, Bag, Tote
- 7003- Kristie Hartman - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3023- Rafael Hughes - Box, Bag, Tote
- 6043-Jason Jeffrey - Box, Bag, Tote
- 9032-Isaac King - Box, Bag, Tote
- 9062-Isaac King - Box, Bag, Tote
- 4043-Patrick Knight - Box, Bag, Tote
- 5016-Joy Lynn - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3089-Stephanie Machel - Box, Bag, Tote
- 6042- Ashley Morey-Gallagher - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3075- Steven Newsome - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3030- Jennifer Orman - Box, Bag, Tote
- 4027- Justin Proch - Box, Bag, Tote
- 7021- Kim Redmond - Box, Bag, Tote
- 7019- Tiffany Scott - Box, Bag, Tote
- 3031- Antione Turner - Box, Bag, Tote

Publish: November 13 & 20, 2008

OE09031469-204.6

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, *PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.* will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 11/29/2008 at 9:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 096- William Bridge Jr - box, bag, totes
- 1001- Crystal Langley - box, bag, totes
- 1022- Faye Guerra - box, bag, totes
- 1039- Melanie Roberts - box, bag, totes
- 1116- John Jordan IV - box, bag, totes
- 1118- Bianca Jordan - box, bag, totes
- 130- John Cairns - box, bag, totes
- 304- Guadalupe Garza Jr - box, bag, totes
- 412- Scott Gent - box, bag, totes
- 524- Debra Higgins - box, bag, totes
- 532- Michael A Santwire - box, bag, totes
- 642- Kristy Bredburn - box, bag, totes
- 657- Kymane R Clark - box, bag, totes
- 718- Edward Kowalcik - box, bag, totes
- 823- James Goodman - box, bag, totes
- 947- Susan Dalimonte - box, bag, totes

Publish: November 13 & 20, 2008

OE08931461-203.5

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

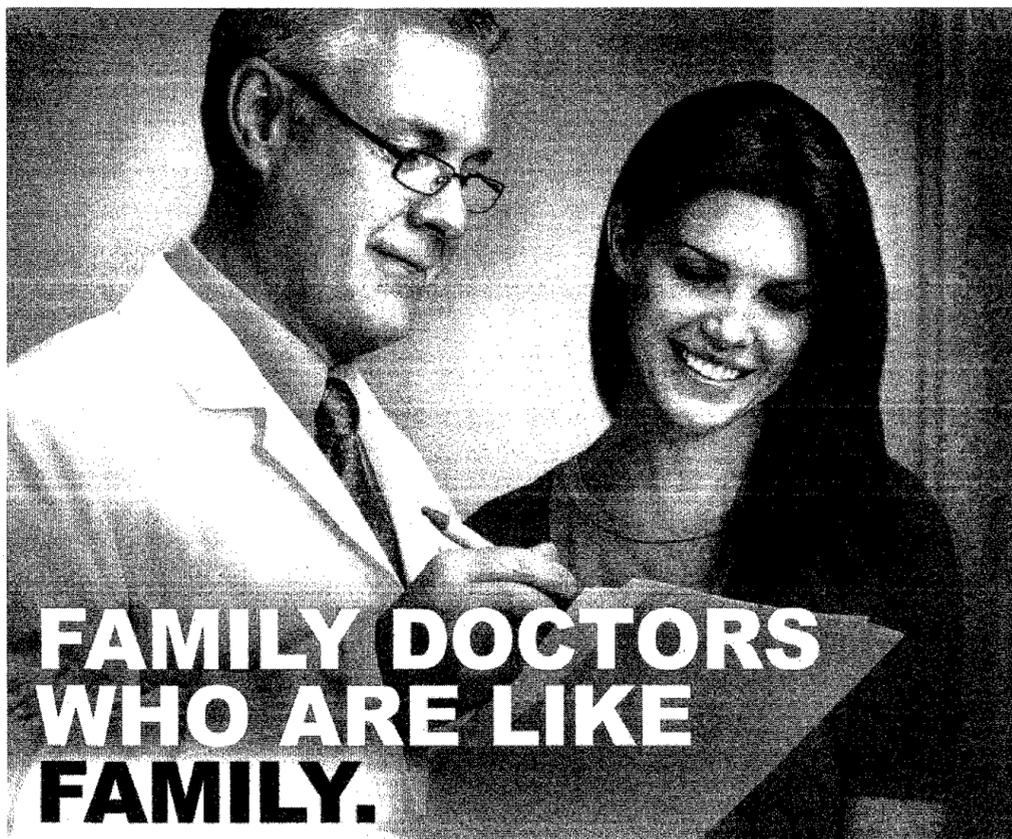
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, *PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.* will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 11/28/2008 at 9:30 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1096 Omar Mohammad Malik - boxes, bags, totes
- 1204 Mary Keegan - bags, mattress, boxes
- 1282 Anthony Kempinski - boxes, bags, totes
- 1333 Olive Garden - boxes
- 1346 Terry Morgan - boxes, grill, totes
- 1374 Travis Johnson - mattress, boxes, bags
- 2288 Anthony Pinon - boxes, bags, totes
- 2304 Nina Costello - boxes, bags, totes
- 2312 Tristina Mitchel - dresser, lamp, bags
- 3012- Steve Miller - box, bag, tote
- 1196- Marie Wallace - box, bag, tote
- 2393 Margaret Harris - boxes, bags, totes
- 2482 William Vannetta - boxes, bags, totes
- 3002 Anthony Pinon - boxes., bags, totes

Publish: November 13 & 20, 2008

OE08931473-203.6



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SPORTS

B (LW)

Thursday, November 20, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

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Lutheran Westland in Final 4

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last week, Lutheran High Westland's volleyball team won a regional championship for the first time in school history.

But now there's bigger fish to fry, especially after the Warriors knocked off Adrian Lenawee Christian, 3-0, in a Class D state quarterfinal Tuesday night at Saline

VOLLEYBALL Washtenaw Christian. Bolstered

by their 25-19, 25-13 and 25-15 victory against the Cougars (27-13-5), the No. 2-ranked Warriors (45-5-5) need only handle sixth-ranked Pellston (46-8-6) in Friday's 2 p.m. Class D semifinal in Battle Creek to have a crack at the state title Saturday morning.

One of Lutheran Westland's big guns Tuesday, senior outside hitter Becca Refenes, is feeling pretty good about what her team can accomplish in Battle Creek.

"I think clinching against them in three is definitely going to give us confidence going in to Friday," said Refenes, who tallied 17 kills and six digs Tuesday.

Refenes also was part of the match-clinching point at the end of Game 3.

Senior libero Abi Gieschen (19-of-21 in serve-serve, 11 service points) reeled off eight points from the service stripe to wrap up the night's action. But on the 25th point, it was Refenes who stretched along the left sideline to keep play going.

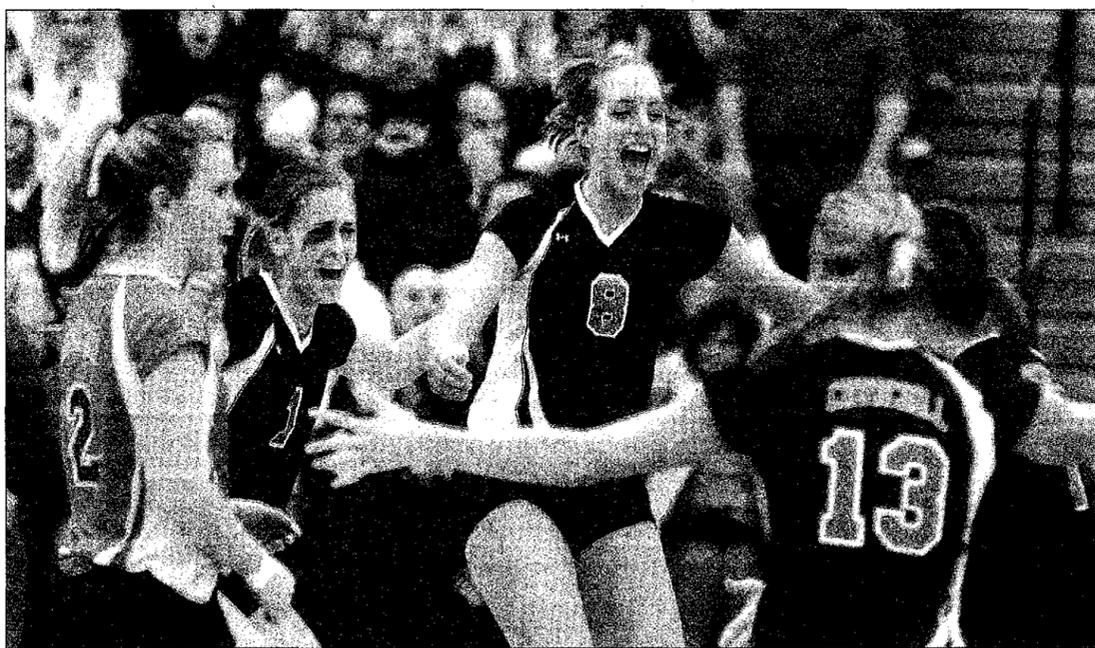
THE CLINCHER

Hammering home the winning point — and touching off a wild celebration on the floor, with an impressive group of Lutheran Westland fans making the trek to Saline — was senior middle hitter Katey Ramthun (12 kills, nine service points). Teeing it up nicely was senior setter Lauren Gieschen (29 assists).

"We don't want the ball to hit the floor, we want to win more than any other team on the other side," Refenes said about the extra effort that yielded the clinching point. "I think that definitely shows with the way we hustled."

Moments after the Warriors

Please see **LUTHERAN, B3**



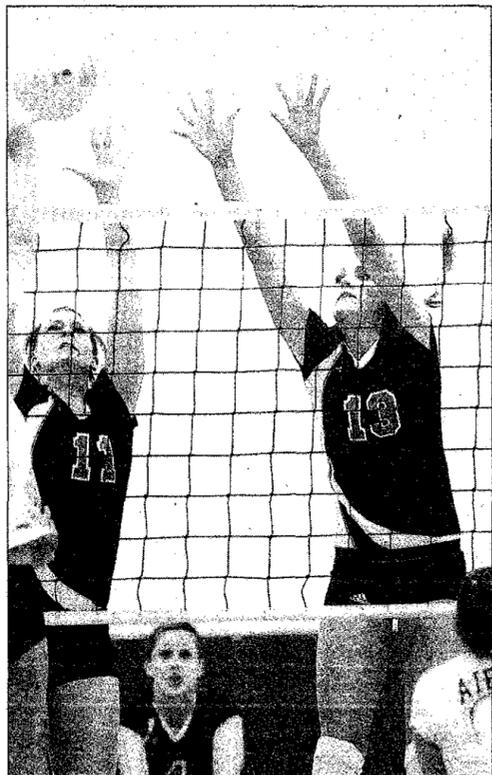
PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Lindsey Graciak (from left), Taylor Kerr, Kathryn Krupsky, Katie Matz and Jessica Stroud react after the final point following Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal victory over Carleton Airport.

Battle Creek-bound

Churchill buzzes Airport in state quarterfinal triumph

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Churchill's Katie Matz (11) and Jessica Stroud (13) go up for the block in Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal match against Carleton Airport. Right behind the two blockers is teammate Kristy DeClercq.

Carleton Airport volleyball fans donned black T-shirts with the inscription on the backs: "Airport Hit List, Who's Next?"

But instead, it was the Jets who got grounded in Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal at Novi — by Livonia Churchill.

The Chargers are back in the Final Four and hope to duplicate their 2006 winter season state championship run following a 25-23, 25-23, 25-23 triumph over Airport.

Churchill, 49-3 overall, will take on 63-6 Jenison in a Class A semifinal matchup beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Battle Creek's Kellogg Center. Jenison advanced by eliminating highly regarded East Kentwood in five games.

Airport, a Class B state semifinalist a year ago, bowed out with a 48-8 record. The Jets had their chances in each of the three games, but Churchill was able to cash in on critical points when called upon.

Once again, the Chargers used their trademark balanced offensive attack led by senior Kristen Nalez's 10 kills. Junior Sarah Suppelsa added nine, while senior Katie Matz and junior Cierra Yetts contributed seven apiece. Senior Jessica Stroud also had five kills and two blocks.

"I don't think it was one of our better games, but we played well enough to get through this," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "It shows our depth and that our kids can do a variety of things despite the mistakes and the errors."

Airport couldn't hold a 16-12 lead in the first set. The Jets then fell behind 22-18 when Taylor Kerr — sporting a nice shiner over her right eye — served three straight aces, but regrouped and pulled to within one, 24-23, before Nalez closed it out with a kill.

Churchill led 21-15 in the second set, but Airport charged back and cut the deficit to 24-23 on one of Jordan Erz's 15 kills. But Yetts answered with the set-winner to put the Chargers up 2-0.

In the third set, Churchill led 19-16, but the Jets again refused to run out of fuel before making it 24-23, only to put up an errant serve out-of-bounds to end the match.

"(Coach) Barb (Kohn) does a great job at Airport. I've known her for years," Grenier said. "We went with a slightly different blocking scheme setup and we made some defensive adjustments, and fortunately it worked out well."

Churchill's inconsistent hitting throughout the night was saved by

Please see **CHURCHILL, B3**

Revamped Spartans' offensive line spurs playoff run

FOOTBALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Division 1: Livonia Stevenson (10-2) vs. Rockford (11-1).

Division 2: Muskegon (12-0) vs. Davison (9-3).

When: 10:30 a.m. (Division 1); 1 p.m. (Division 2), Saturday, Nov. 22.

Where: Michigan State's Spartan Stadium.

Tickets: \$7 per session.

State finals at Ford Field: Division 2 (1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28); Division 1 (1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29).

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They've remained virtually anonymous throughout Livonia Stevenson's football regular season and playoff run.

But a rebuilt offensive line is one of the reasons why the 10-2 Spartans are returning to the state semifinals and one win away from heading back to the Division 1 finals at Detroit's Ford Field.

"It's been a work in progress," said Stevenson coach Tim Gabel, whose team takes on 11-1 Rockford in a 10:30 a.m. matchup Saturday at Michigan State's Spartan Stadium. "We've juggled things around — even the last two weeks."

While players like Austin White, Wade Stahl and Jacob Gudeman grab most of the headlines as play-makers for the Spartans, jersey Nos. 55, 58, 76, 77, 78 and 86 have toiled in relative obscurity.

Stevenson is averaging 34.6 points per game. And it's been done with six new starters up front.

Seniors Zac Whalen and Andrew Nelson, the most experienced of the group, rotated practice reps last year with the first-teamers.

"They showed a lot of potential, but there were some people that played ahead of them and there was no way they were going to beat out

Please see **SPARTANS, B3**

OU signs Holbrook

The Oakland University women's volleyball program received NCAA National Letters of Intent during the early signing period including 6-foot Westland John Glenn middle

blocker Brittany Holbrook. Holbrook will be joined by Allison Kirk, a 5-6 libero from Bloomington (Ill.) H.S. and 5-11 outside hitter Meghan Bray of Naperville (Ill.) Central H.S.

Holbrook is a three-time All-Conference and All-Observer selection. She registered 313 total kills this season (3.8 per game) and is a two-time Glenn MVP. She also earned Division 1 All-Region 18 honors twice.

Holbrook also plays basketball and softball for the Rockets. "In Brittany we saw tremendous physical potential," OU coach Rob Beam said. "While she is new to high level volleyball, she has the right tools to be a major contributor at the Division 1 level. She is a powerful jumper and hits a heavy ball."

"During the recruiting process what set her apart for us was her personality. She has the strength of character, loves to play, and a strong work ethic. She has a very bright future as a Golden Grizzly."

Swartz honored
Hillsdale College senior offensive guard Josiah Swartz (Westland John Glenn) recently earned All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honorable mention honors in football.

Swartz also earned the team's prestigious Howard "Champ" Messenger Award, which recognizes achievement on the field and character off the field.

The Canton resident was a three-year starter on the offensive line for the Chargers, who finished 7-4 overall this season and 6-4 in the GLIAC.



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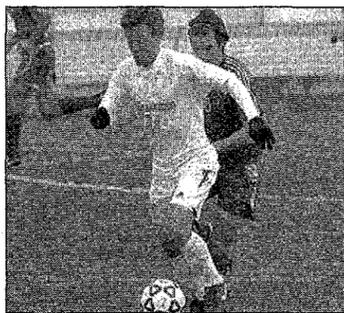


4 Tickets for \$44

National tourney bound MU hosts Grand View in opener

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Doron Drai is usually Madonna University's set-up man. But the senior midfielder from Kfar-Yona, Isreal also showed he's also adept at putting the ball in the net as the Crusaders advanced to the NALIA men's soccer nationals for the second straight year with a 2-0 victory Saturday afternoon over Aquinas College in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference finals held at Livonia Churchill H.S.



MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University junior midfielder Emilio Giorgi, shown earlier this season, helped spark the Crusaders to a win in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament final.

Madonna University junior midfielder Emilio Giorgi, shown earlier this season, helped spark the Crusaders to a win in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament final.

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Madonna University junior midfielder Emilio Giorgi, shown earlier this season, helped spark the Crusaders to a win in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament final.

this year our goal is to win the play-on game and go to California.

"We've played two of our better games late in the season. We were focused more today on the details. Defensively we've been a sloppy team at times this season. We needed to do a better job of eliminating opportunities, and we did a very good job of that today."

Drai, who played one season at Oakland University before transferring to MU, is making his senior year a special one.

"Big players play in big games," Scicluna said. "He's been rewarded with Offensive Player of the Year and today was a classic example. That's why he's gotten a lot of support from around the conference."

"He was at Oakland University. Gary Parsons (OU's coach) and I have and open exchange and Doron kind of got lost in the shuffle. Madonna is blessed to get a guy like him in the program. He's everything what Madonna wants in a player."

Aquinas, which had shared the WHAC regular season title with MU at 11-1, bowed out at 14-6 overall. Saints goalkeeper Ben Richardson kept it close throughout facing 17 shots and making eight saves.

The finish was marred by a pair of red cards (ejections) handed out in the final minute to Pichler, a junior defender, and Saints forward Erich Jackson.

Pichler, one of three Stevenson High starters on the MU squad (along with Keith Sied and Nick Dordeski), will have to sit out the NALIA Tournament opener.

"It was almost a perfect game," Scicluna said. "There was no reason for that to happen at the end of the game. It was not the best decision to that problem, but none-the-less, the players have to pay the consequences for their actions."

Crusader spikers stop Indiana Tech, reach NAIA's

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

The Madonna University women's volleyball team proved to be clutch on the road Saturday, earning its seventh straight trip to the NALIA Nationals.

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Year Lubovj Tihomirova finished with a game-high 23 kills, while Mary McGinnis and Whitney Fuelling added 11 each as the Crusaders earned their 11th national appearance with a 25-16, 25-12, 19-25, 28-26 triumph over host Indiana Tech.

"We played so fast, so awesome, it was our best match of season," said MU coach Jerry Abraham, whose team improved to 35-4 overall. "It was a great performance on the road. Our big hitters stepped up. The gym was packed, the band was playing, just a great atmosphere. It was one of great games in MU history."

Amanda Koszela and Brynn Kerr (Livonia Churchill/Schoolcraft College) paced the Crusaders' defense with 20 and 15 digs, respectively.

Setter Inta Grinvalds also stood out in the win for MU with 48 assist-to-kills.

"Inta passed perfectly - we attacked antenna to antenna," Abraham said. "She set a masterful game. She moved the ball around and set with a lot of strategy."

"And we also got some key blocks from Stephanie Parslow. We also had great defensive effort. When we play good defense with a

fast tempo, we're tough to stop."

MU and Tech split two matches and eight sets during the regular season, but the Warriors got the home court determined by tiebreaker criteria based on total points in the two matches (186-185).

The Crusaders, ranked No. 11 in the latest NALIA poll, dominated the first two sets before Tech rallied in the third. MU had match point and a three-point cushion in the fourth game before the Warriors tied it at 24-all.

"We had backs against wall, had 24-21 lead in Game 4, and they came back," Abraham said.

"There were a couple of controversial calls. They (Tech) ended up tying it and we didn't want them get to a fifth game and give them all the momentum."

MU was able to close out the match to earn its 12th WHAC title in school history and earn an automatic bye into the national tournament, which starts Dec. 2 at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Ia. The Crusaders are 25-20 all-time in the NALIA Nationals.

Indiana Tech, getting 13 kills from WHAC Freshman of the Year Ashley Hamilton and 12 from Erika Stouder, fell to 32-3 overall. The 19th-ranked Warriors qualified as at-large pick and will travel this Saturday to face King (Tenn.) in Bristol.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL
DIVISION I STATE SEMIFINALS
Saturday, Nov. 21
Stevenson (10-2) vs. Rockford (11-1) at MSU's Spartan Stadium, 10:30 a.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
STATE SEMIFINALS
at Battle Creek's Kellogg Center
Friday, Nov. 21
CLASS D
Lutheran Westland vs. Pellston, 2 p.m.
B.C. St. Phillip vs. B.C. All-Saints, 3:45 p.m.
CLASS A
Churchill vs. Jenison, 5:30 p.m.
G.P. North vs. B.H. Marian, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22
(MHSAA Finals at Kellogg Center)

Class D championship, 10 a.m.
Class C championship, noon.
Class A championship, 2 p.m.
Class B championship, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
Friday, Nov. 21
Division 1 prelims at EMU, noon.
Division 2 prelims at Holland, noon.
Saturday, Nov. 22
Division 1 finals at EMU, noon.
Division 2 prelims at Holland, noon.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Nov. 21
(Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena)
Stevenson vs. Lake Orion, 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22

(Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena)
Stevenson vs. Grand Rapids CC, 5 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Thursday, Nov. 20
(NJCAA Tourney Paradise Valley, Ariz.)
South Suburban vs. San Jacinto, 11 a.m.
CCBC-Essex vs. Mercer CC, 1:30 p.m.
Georgia Perimeter vs. Garden City, 4 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Yavapai (Ariz.), 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22
(NAIA Nationals-First Round)
Madonna vs. Grand View (Ia.) at Churchill H.S., 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Thursday, Nov. 20
(NJCAA Tourney at Chandler, Ariz.)
Lewis & Clark vs. Monroe, 11:30 a.m.

Navarro vs. N. Idaho, 2 p.m.
Darton vs. Anne Arundel, 4:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Chandler-Gilbert, 7:30 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Nov. 22
Rochester JV at Schoolcraft, 2 p.m.
(Albion College Tournament)
Madonna vs. Defiance (Ohio), 3 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 23
(Albion College Tournament)
Madonna vs. Albion, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Nov. 22
(WHAC-MCC Challenge)
Indiana Wesleyan at Madonna, 5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 23
Madonna at Eastern Michigan, 2 p.m.

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LUTHERAN

FROM PAGE B1

completed their victory, coach Kevin Wade had to ward off a mob of happy Lutheran Westland fans.

Wade is also the school's varsity baseball coach and some of his 2008 players swarmed to congratulate him.

"I'm glad the kids came out and supported us tonight," Wade said. "When we did our baseball run (Class D finalist), students started getting excited about it, too, and we started getting some fans."

"A lot of those boys (in Tuesday's congratulatory scene) are my baseball boys. They know what it's like to have fan support, so they're excited to be here, too."

GETTING IT STARTED

From the first serve of the night, the Warriors had an edge on the Cougars because of crisp passing and power slams.

Lutheran Westland led all the way through the first two games and Wade didn't discount the importance of doing that.

"I don't think Lenawee Christian's bad by any means," Wade said. "We just built a lead and that gave us confidence. It could have been the other way around had they built the lead."

In Game 1, the Warriors registered back-to-back early points on tips by Refenes and opened up a 9-5 lead following a three-point service run (including an ace) by senior outside hitter Allyson Yankee (six kills).

An ace by Gieschen finished off the opener.

Still, there were some early moments of trepidation for Refenes, particularly going up against Lenawee Christian senior outside hitter Christie Harrah (nine kills, nine digs) and junior middle blocker Montana Ashline (five blocks).

"I thought at the beginning I was playing terrible, I wasn't very happy with my perfor-



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Luther Westland senior libero Abi Gieschen, shown in a regional semifinal victory over Birmingham Roper, had three digs and served 11 points in Tuesday's Class D quarterfinal win over Adrian Lenawee Christian.

mance," Refenes said. "I was getting stuff blocked. But they (teammates) just picked it up, my whole team just picked me up and I was fine after that."

A four-point service run opening up Game 2, by Ramthun, set the tone for the easiest win of the night.

The Warriors enjoyed three-point stints by Yankee and Refenes along with junior defensive setter Nicole Zehel's four-point run (including two aces) to make it 24-13. Zehel contributed seven service points and three digs for the night.

JUST RELAX

An extra-effort move by Ramthun completed the win. With her back to the net, standing in the middle of the zone, she batted a ball into Cougars territory that could not be returned.

Lenawee Christian didn't go quietly, however, in the third game.

Three points served up by sophomore outside hitter London Moore — the third on a tip by junior Tenille Marowelli (six kills, four digs) — gave the Cougars a lead, 8-7, for the first time all night.

Wade promptly called a timeout and reminded his team not to take anything for granted.

"They got the lead and they were playing a little more inspired," he said. "We were starting to dink the ball, kind of soft, and they were blocking us."

"We just talked about, 'Relax, let's get some passes back for our setter and let's start swinging away again.'"

That message got through, as the Warriors soon regained the lead and closed things out with Abi Gieschen's eight-point run.

Several players were featured during that string, demonstrating the Warriors' total team effort.

Lauren Gieschen set up two kills apiece by Yankee and Ramthun, while junior outside hitter Emilie Freeman delivered a block for another.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Wade said the way the Warriors reacted to whatever obstacles they faced Tuesday should hold them in good stead for Friday's test.

"Even though we've faced a little adversity here and there, we've never panicked," Wade said. "And that's just a testament to the leadership of the seniors and the experience that we have."

Lenawee Christian coach Sue Howard, hoping to steer the Cougars toward their first state championship in five years, said her squad just made too many miscues against a top-notch opponent.

"We made mistakes that we haven't made for a long time," she said. "Our fundamentals broke down and they took us out of our passing game."

"They're a great team, though, they did a great job. I'm proud of them and I wish them the best."

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CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

some solid back row play.

Senior setter Kristy DeClercq finished with 22 assist-to-kills, along with four kills and two aces.

Senior libero Lindsey Graciak had 11 digs, while sophomore Cory Urbats finished with nine digs and seven assists.

Avery Bodenmiller contributed 11 kills for Airport, which moved up a class this season and did not lose a set this year in the Huron League.

"Every step is tougher and tougher," said Kohn, who is in her 21st season at Airport. "Going from Class B to Class A — it's the speed of the game and the swings are harder. Across the front row they (Churchill) were swinging hard."

"We did not play our best,

but we played hard. We did it in spurts, but just not consistent enough. With their constant pressure, we had to be more consistent with what we do. A lot of it was a matter of execution."

The win was particularly satisfying for Matz, who remembered all too well last fall's heartbreaking regional semifinal loss at Novi to Milford.

"I came into the game saying you can't lose here twice in this gym," Matz said. "The team was so united and if we played our hearts out, we felt we could win it. We wanted to go to Battle Creek and prove we could win."

Yet it was a struggle throughout the three games, particularly when the 6-1 Erz was in an attack mode on the front row.

"Their middle hitter (Erz) has that shot," Matz said. "We practiced against it, but we just struggled."

"We haven't played like that

the last couple of games. We had to be louder, more aggressive because we haven't played to our potential."

Grenier said Matz is one of Churchill's unsung players this season.

"Matz is not a kid that will lead us in any statistical category, but there's a reason why she's our only six-rotation kid other than Lindsey Graciak," the Churchill coach said. "She sets, plays defense, passes and hits. There's a reason why we're here and it's because of Katie."

Churchill will once again be an underdog when it takes on Jenison. The Chargers were in a similar situation in 2006 against East Kentwood in the semifinals and pulled off the upset in five games en route to the state title.

"It's an honor and a privilege to get to where we're at," Grenier said. "It has to be someone who does it, so why not us?"

SPARTANS

FROM PAGE B1

those seniors we had last year," Gabel said. "It was all about off-season dedication and they've stepped in like veterans."

Whalen, who stands 6 feet, 1 inch, and weighs 229 pounds, started the season at tackle, but during Stevenson's playoff run has moved over to guard.

Nelson (6-3, 254) anchors one tackle slot opposite junior Joe Swingle (6-3, 211), who got the call recently when Gabel decided to use senior Kyle Hobbins (6-0, 194) exclusively as a full-time linebacker.

"Kyle was going both ways, but for the Catholic Central (playoff) game we freed him up to just go one way at linebacker and he was our leading tackler the last game (against Canton) with 18," Gabel said. "Joe is a guy who has continued to work real hard."

Sophomore Jon Anead (6-1, 225) has started all 12 games to solidify the other guard position.

"We brought him up in August because we weren't sure with the line, but we thought enough of him that we'd hope he'd stick," Gabel said. "He gave us no reason

to send him down (to JV). He hasn't played like a sophomore. He's just played better and better."

David Bogart, a 5-10, 241-pound junior, has adapted well to his new role as the Spartans' center.

"He never played the position before, but he's played great," the Stevenson coach said. "He's been a pleasant surprise."

Meanwhile, junior Jordan El-Sabeh (6-4, 188) starts at both tight end and defensive end.

"He's a good blocker, a guy who goes both ways and has been solid right from the start," Gabel said.

THE ROCKFORD FILES

The Rams, coached by Ralph Munger, are no strangers to the state semifinals. This is Rockford's fourth state semifinal appearance since 2004.

They won the 2004 (31-6 vs. Sterling Heights Stevenson) and 2005 (31-21 vs. Canton) Division 1 titles and lost to Macomb Dakota (38-16) in the 2006 finals.

Rockford (enrollment 2,564), is a member of the OK Conference's Red Division, with its only loss to Division 2 power Muskegon (34-6) in Week 8.

The Rams, averaging 32.4 points per game while allow-

ing just under 15, are coming off a 24-8 regional win over Hartland.

Rockford's offense has been described by some scouts as "wings and things."

Stevenson's defense will have to prepare for "everything but the kitchen sink."

"They run an enormous amount of formations and plays," Gabel said. "It began as a wing-T (formation), but they're extremely creative. They can run spread, a lot of variations out of the wing. They'll run a one-back, a pro set and three backs with a tight-T like Canton."

Aaron Kwekel is the Rams' lead back, but he went down with an undisclosed injury against Hartland.

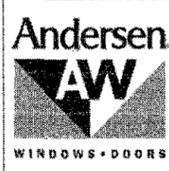
"They didn't miss a miss beat," Gabel said. "They just run a whole lot of offense and got a lot of yardage with two other halfbacks — Ryan Cochran and Alex Rojas — who came in and were steady."

Rockford's base 3-4 defense also presents challenges.

"They're small, but quick up front," Gabel said. "They disguise their blitzes and switch their coverages. They're sophisticated as well. They'll let you block five on three, but they'll make their inside linebackers and defensive backs make plays."

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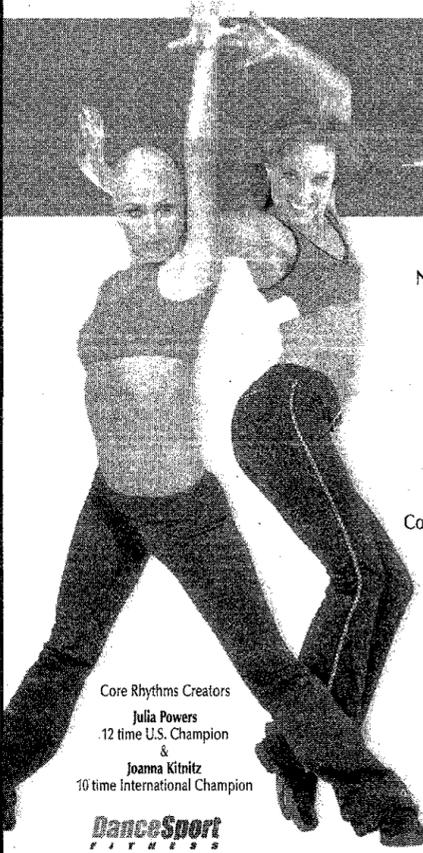
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London's third-period barrage sinks Whalers

Justin Taylor and Akim Aliu scored two power play goals each as the London Knights built a 3-2 lead after forty minutes of play and pulled away from the Plymouth Whalers with three unanswered goals in the third period to defeat the Whalers, 6-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played before Saturday a sellout crowd of 4,102 at Compuware Arena. London improves to 16-5-0-1.

Plymouth is now 7-12-2-0. Kale Kerbashian and Tucker Hunter also scored for London. Vern Cooper (6th) and Josh Bemis (1st) replied for Plymouth. London never trailed in the game, taking a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals by Taylor (10th of the season, scoring in tight quarters in front of the Plymouth net at 6:58) and Aliu (third of the year at 19:40, finishing

off an excellent solo rush). Plymouth cut the London lead to 2-1 on Cooper's goal at 1:22 of the second period when he played Jordan O'Neill's high shot off the glass behind the London net and scored from the lower rim of the right circle. Kerbashian scored the eventual game-winner at 4:26 on a shot from the slot. Plymouth cut the London lead to 3-2 at 8:25 of the period on Josh Bemis'

shot from the right point. The key moments in the game came at the start of the third period. London came into the period with a 5-on-3 advantage and cashed in, receiving two more power plays goals from Aliu (hard shot from the left wing at 0:37) and Taylor at 3:24. Tucker Hunter closed the scoring with his first goal of the season at 9:35. In all, London went 4-for-9 on the

power play, while the Whalers went 1-for-7. London outshot Plymouth, 45-35. Plymouth is off until Friday night when they play in Owen Sound. The Whalers host Sault Ste. Marie in their next home game on Saturday at Compuware Arena. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (734) 453-8400.

LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

								
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WEEK #12 GAMES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

Sunday, November 23, 2008

Tampa Bay at Detroit
San Francisco at Dallas
Houston at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Baltimore
Carolina at Atlanta
Minnesota at Jacksonville
New York Jets at Tennessee
Chicago at St. Louis
New England at Miami
Buffalo at Kansas City
Oakland at Denver
New York Giants at Arizona
Washington at Seattle
Indianapolis at San Diego

Monday, November 17, 2008

Green Bay at New Orleans

All-Observer harriers are best in the long run

FIRST TEAM

SARA KROLL, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The three-time All-Area selection capped on outstanding junior year with a school-record 5,000-meter time of 17:53.5 en route to a seventh-place finish at the Division 1 state meet.

Kroll also took firsts at the regional (17:58.8), Kensington Conference (18:43), KLA South Division and Wayne County (18:01.7) meets. She also took seconds at the West Bloomfield (18:45) and Jackson (18:07.3) invitationals, as well as a third at Michigan State (18:16).

"Sara took herself to a new level this year, she set high goals for herself and did what she needed to do to achieve them," Churchill coach Sue Tatro said of the KLA Scholar Athlete and team MVP. "She has all the qualities of an elite runner: work ethic, competitive drive, intelligence, talent and passion."

"She peaked at the right time and ran her best race at the state meet where she broke her own school record. It's an absolute joy coaching Sara, and I'm looking forward to watching her continue in her leadership role next season."

COURTNEY CALKA, SR., LIV. STEVENSON: The four-time All-Observer pick was an individual state qualifier in Division 1 where she placed eighth overall in 17:56.

Calka, a four-time All-Stater, was also the Brighton regional champion (17:47.8), as well as KLA Central Division and Livonia Public Schools Invitational champion. She was also runner-up in the Kensington Conference (19:06).

She is a three-time regional champion and owns the school record for the fastest 5K time.

"Courtney is a very dedicated cross country runner," Stevenson coach Nancy Gavor said. "She is willing to give nights out with her friends, staying up late, holding a job and eating well - to become a great runner. She is focused on winning and tries to win every race enters."

Calka is being recruited by EMU, Michigan and Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.

AMANDA SOUTHWELL, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The second-time All-Area selection recorded the fifth fastest time in Charger history with an All-State performance (14th) with a time of 18:24.1 at the Division 1 finals.

Southwell also took third at the LPS meet, fourth in the regional (19:09.8), ninth at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Amanda is by far one of the most talented athletes I've had the pleasure of coaching," Tatro said. "She is a natural runner who loves to race. It was an inspiration watching her run her best race at the state meet. I think she has come to the realization that she could take her running to amazing levels in the future. I'm looking forward to watching her continue to excel at this new level."

MEGAN MCPHERSON, SOPH., LIV. FRANKLIN: The 10th-grader just missed All-State honors at the

2008 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM

Sara Kroll, Jr., Liv. Churchill
Courtney Calka, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
Amanda Southwell, Jr., Liv. Churchill
Megan McPherson, Soph., Liv. Franklin
Bianca Kubicki, Soph., Canton
Molly Slavens, Sr., Plymouth
Alyssa Mira, Sr., Liv. Churchill
Victoria Tripp, Soph., Salem
Jordyn Moore, Jr., Salem
Nicole Traitses, Fr., Plymouth

SECOND TEAM

Bethany Pilot, Fr., Liv. Churchill
Emily Clairmont, Sr., Liv. Churchill
Beth Heidmeyer, Sr., Plymouth
Karli Kuchka, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
Julia Kenney, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Sarah Thomas, Sr., Canton
Rachel Rohrbach, Soph., Canton
Tiffany Lamble, Fr., Liv. Franklin
Kayla Szado, Soph., Liv. Churchill
Kelly Hahn, Jr., Plymouth

COACH OF THE YEAR

Sue Tatro, Liv. Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Sarah Bauman, Hannah Otto, Lindsay McMullen, Lisa McMullen, Tiffany Raisanen, Katie Rash, Jenna Szabo, Allie Zoski, Katie Conklin, Sara Meador, Kerri Miagowicz; **Plymouth:** Julie Forster, Adrienne White, Tricia Pniewski, Lizzie Bartek; **Salem:** Kelly Kerwin, Autumn Burin, Kara Booms, Shannon Griffiths, Phoebe VanHoof, Kelley Determan, Linda Ling; **Stevenson:** Victoria Saferian, Katie Vidler, Katie Capeneka, Julia Capeneka, Michelle Krawczyk; **Tasi Newson,** Rebecca Gidley; **Franklin:** Brittany Dilley, Kelly Walblay, Brittany Rouse; **Canton:** Katie Galm, Samantha Schiamp, Abigail Gorzalski, Rachael Brunk, Emily Southern; **Westland John Glenn:** Ashley Bailey, Evi Cenolli, Megan Nikula, Jaimie Medel; **Ladywood:** Meredith Houska, Becky Babon, Cathy Wojtanowski; **Redford Union:** Amanda Milley, Sara Miller; **Lutheran Westland:** Sarah Maynard, Miriam Pranschke, Erin Lyle, Danielle Voetberg; **Garden City:** Christina Milne; **Wayne Memorial:** Holland Boertje; **Livonia Clarenceville:** Shelby Demyre.

Division 1 finals by finishing 32nd in a school-record time of 18:49.8.

McPherson also placed third at both the regional (18:58) and Kensington Conference (19:36), as well as fourth at the Wayne County Championships (19:04). She won the Monroe Jefferson Invitational (18:52) and was runner-up at South Lyon (19:54) and the LPS (19:51) invitationals. McPherson also took firsts in three dual meets and second in another.

She holds school course records at Nankin Mills, Cass Benton, Willow Metropark, Sterling State Park and MIS.

"After a season-ending back injury her freshman year, Megan worked hard during track and in the off-season and it really paid off," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said. "Megan is an extremely hard worker and very dedicated to her team, and she never let up, finishing in the top five in every invitational leading up to the state meet. It's a season we're all proud of and we look for more great things from her next year."

BIANCA KUBICKI, SOPH., CANTON: The sophomore enjoyed a stellar fall, finishing 36th at the D1 state meet and sixth in her Regional race. Kubicki won the Ypsilanti Invitational.

"Obviously, Bianca was invaluable to our team," said Canton coach Eric Pahl. "She was our No. 1 runner and pushed everybody else to make them better. She took on a leadership role, too, which was nice to see. Her future is bright, especially now that she's starting to realize her potential in the sport."

MOLLY SLAVENS, SR., PLYMOUTH: The senior turned in a spectacular senior season, placing third in the KLA South Division race, seventh at the conference meet, eighth at the D1 Regional and 61st at the state meet. The Plymouth school record-holder took gold at the Autumn Classic, which was run in rainy conditions.

"Molly will be dearly missed next year," said Plymouth coach Mary Kerwin. "It's not often you find an athlete with tons of talent and uncompromising spirit - Molly has both."



Sara Kroll Churchill



Courtney Calka Stevenson



Amanda Southwell Churchill



Megan McPherson Franklin



Bianca Kubicki Canton



Molly Slavens Plymouth



Alyssa Mira Churchill



Victoria Tripp Salem



Jordyn Moore Salem



Nicole Traitses Plymouth

ALYSSA MIRA, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The senior and team captain wound up 69th overall at the Division 1 finals (19:22.9) after placing seventh at the regional (19:30).

Mira, a four-time All-Observer selection, owns the fourth fastest time in Churchill history (18:23).

She also took fourths at the LPS and KLA South Division meets, as well as a 10th in the Kensington Conference.

Mira, headed to Grand Valley State on a soccer scholarship, also is a KLA Scholar-Athlete and won the Churchill Coach's Award.

"Alyssa capped off a solid high school cross country career that was defined by hard work and competitiveness," Tatro said. "She is an amazing athlete who absolutely loves to race. She was a true leader who was able to motivate her teammates by her outstanding example. Being able to juggle her soccer and cross country for her four years was truly phenomenal. She'll go down in Churchill history as one of the most successful student-athletes in the girls cross country program. It has been a pleasure and privilege coaching Alyssa, and she'll be greatly missed next year."

VICTORIA TRIPP, SOPH., SALEM: The sophomore made the most of her first year in cross country by running a personal best at 19:27.1 to finish 75th overall at the Division 1 state finals.

Tripp also took 10th at the

regional (19:40.6), 11th in the Kensington Conference (20:24) and 18th at the Haslett Invitational (19:27.7).

"Victoria is a tremendous competitor who is still learning in this sport," Salem coach Dave Gerlach said. "She is a two-sport athlete who we feel has not even reached her full potential yet. We look for Victoria to have an even bigger impact next year."

JORDYN MOORE, JR., SALEM: The junior took 73rd in the Division 1 state finals with a time of 19:25.9 after qualifying with an 11th-place finish at the regional (19:40.9).

Moore also took 16th in the Kensington Conference meet (20:40) and an 18th in the Wayne County Championships at Willow Metropark (19:55.4).

"Jordyn is definitely a big-time athlete who thrives on pressure situations and competitions," Gerlach said of the two-time state qualifier. "We know as coaches that in the competitions that matter most, Jordyn can be counted on to perform at a high level. She is highly respected by this entire organization."

NICOLE TRAITSES, FR., PLYMOUTH: The ninth-grader hit the high school stage running, racking up a sixth-place showing at the KLA South Division race, a 13th-place effort at the conference meet, a 12th-place Regional showing before taking 151st at the state meet. She won the all-important

Plymouth-Canton dual meet with a 19:57 at Cass Benton. "Nicole answered the call all year for me," said Kerwin. "When I told her what she needed to do in a race, she always got the job done. I'm so pleased I'll get to coach her for three more years - she's a great kid."

SUE TATRO, COACH OF YEAR, LIV. CHURCHILL: The 13th-year coach guided the Chargers to their fifth consecutive top-ten finish in the Division 1 state finals with an eighth place.

Under Tatro's guidance, Churchill also captured the regional, Kensington Conference and KLA South Division crowns.

She has coached eight different All-Staters in her 13 years.

The former Sue Tatigian earned All-Observer honors as a runner at Stevenson (1983-84) before going on to run cross country and track at Michigan State. She also coached five seasons at Livonia Franklin (1990-95) before moving over to Churchill.

"This season has been one of the most gratifying in my career due to the level of improvement the girls made from throughout the season," Tatro said. "They showed a lot of resilience, dedication, motivation, and inner-strength, and it really paid off at the state meet."

"I am incredibly proud of this group and look forward to watching the returning runners strive for loftier goals next year. The seniors were an outstanding group of leaders and competitors, and they will be greatly missed."

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Northwood rolls by Crusader women

Northwood University hit the century mark Tuesday with a 106-70 non-conference women's basketball triumph over visiting Madonna University.

The Timberwolves, picked to finish second in the GLIAC-South, improved to 2-0 as Jodi Ostergren and Megan Starnes led the way with 28 and 26 points, respectively. The two also combined for 16 rebounds.

Sarah Glowacki added 19 points and seven assists, while Rachel Church and Karli LeRoy added 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Northwood, which lost an exhibition game in the final minutes to Michigan (71-66), shot 48.6 percent from the floor (35-of-72) and out-rebounded the Crusaders 52-37.

Katie Mount scored a career-high 23 points for MU, which slipped to 1-6 overall.

Kim Olech (Plymouth) chipped in with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Christie Carrico dished out five assists.

The Crusaders, who trailed 54-40 at the half, shot only 37.5 percent from the floor (21-of-56).

CALVIN 64, MADONNA 49: Brook Van Eck poured in 20 points Saturday to lead Calvin College (1-0) to a non-conference win over host Madonna University (1-5).

Marica Harris and Sarah Partridge added 14 and 10 points, respectively, for the Knights, who led 36-21 at intermission.

Christie Carrico was the only Crusader to score in double figures with 15, while Katie Mount and Kim Olech (Plymouth) added eight each. Tabatha Wydryck had a team-high seven rebounds.

MU was out-rebounded 44-26 and Calvin won despite making 27 turnovers.

The Knights shot 50 percent from the floor (24-of-48), while MU hit only 24.5 percent (13-of-53), including 3-of-19 from three-point range.

Area high school icers ready for upcoming '08-09 season

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

This year's preseason hockey outlook can only be described by one word - *rebuilding*.

Both Livonia Stevenson and Churchill reached the 20-win mark and were ranked in the top ten in Division 1 a year ago.

Stevenson, 23-2-2 a year ago and a regional finalist, opens its season Friday in the Metro Invitational at the Novi Ice Arena against Lake Orion.

Six of Stevenson's top eight players graduated with the top returnees being senior forwards R.J. Kierdorf and John Vella.

R.J. Kierdorf was a second-team All-Observer selection who finished with 40 points (10 goals, 30 assists) with a plus-42 rating. Vella also earned fourth-team All-Area honors.

One of the biggest question marks is who will take over



Kierdorf

for first-team All-Observer goaltender Pat McHugh.

"We hope to build on last season's successful year, but understand that this team

will need to create its own identity and leave its impression on Stevenson hockey," second-year coach David Mitchell said.

Churchill, 20-6 a year ago, remains in a similar predicament approaching its season opener Wednesday, Nov. 26 at Edgar Arena against rival Stevenson.

The Chargers will miss scoring threats Nate Milam and Garrett Miencier, both first-team All-Staters.

Four senior defense-men, however, return led by Dan Bostick, Rick Stack, Ken Masarczyk and Adam Wiegand.

"We will not be as flashy as

past years, but I really think this will be a pretty hard-working group," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We have a great senior class and leadership. The locker room is pretty stable as well. If we work hard and play together, I really think this could be a good season."

Livonia Franklin made strides last year under new coach Scott Wirgau, going 9-14-2.

But the Patriots were also hard hit by graduation losses (12) and will rely on the returning trio of senior forward Jordan Chisholm (fourth-team All-Area), senior forward Tyler Barnes and junior forward Tyler Miller.

The Patriots, who take will feature 11 new players on their roster as they embark on their 2008-09 campaign Wednesday, Nov. 26 at home against Novi.

Meanwhile, Livonia Ladywood (15-9-2) won't open

its season until Thursday, Dec. 4 at City Arena in Detroit against Grosse Pointe South. The Blazers will compete again in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

All-Stater Heather Sartorius is the biggest loss to graduation, but a new stand-out has arrived.

"Shelby Kucharski is a travel player that is as dynamic as any that has put on a Ladywood jersey," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We will be counting on her to help lead the younger players."

"Kaitlin (Gaule) has been on the team for three years now and will be playing defense and forward, while Julie (Bushart) will be back on the blue line help to shore up our defense. There will be some experience in the net as last year's backup, Jessica Pavela, will be called upon to play a big role."

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Madonna stung by 'Jackets, 81-65

Chris Beals scored 21 points, hitting 6-of-13 shots from three-point range Saturday, to propel Cedarville University to an 81-65 a non-conference win over Madonna University in the Hank Weinbrecht Classic hosted by Shawnee State (Ohio) University.

Grant Walker added 13 points and six assists for Cedarville, which improved to 4-0 overall.

Christopher Walker added 11 points and eight rebounds for the Yellow Jackets, who led 45-28 at halftime.

MU senior guard Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) led all scorers with 32 points, while Leroy Allen and Ryan Waidmann (Canton) added

MEN'S BASKETBALL

seven apiece as the Crusaders fall to 0-4 overall.

Cedarville, ranked No. 7 in the NAIA Division II preseason poll, shot 27-of-55 from the field (49.1 percent), including 13-of-27 from three-point range (48.1 percent).

Schoolcraft men drop 2

The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team now stands at 2-3 overall following an 85-48 setback Saturday to Columbus State (Ohio) Community College in the Clark State (Ohio) Classic.

On Friday, host Clark State held off the Ocelots, 97-92.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Pete Mazzoni, 11th season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Athletic Association (Kensington Conference, South Division).

Last year's overall record: 20-6.

Titles won last year: Lakes Division champs (Western Lakes Activities Association).

Notable losses to graduation: Nate Milam (first-team All-Area); Garrett Miencier (first-team All-Area); Tyler Cotter (second-team All-Area); Nick Harakas (third-team All-Area); Derrick Daigneau (fourth-team All-Area); Kyle Burke, Mitch Carpenter.

Leading returnees: Dan Bostick, Sr. Def.; Rick Stack, Sr. Def.; Ken Masarczyk, Sr. Def.; Adam Wiegand, Sr. Def.; Mike Woynick, Jr. F.; Stefan Kubus, Sr. F.; Kody Strong, Sr. F.; Scott Hamill, Jr. F.; Christo Papaloannou, Jr. F.; Aaron Crouse, Jr. G.

Promising newcomers: Adrian Motta, Sr. G.; Ryan Cloch, Sr. Def.; Joe Williams, Soph. Def.; Steven Klisz, Soph. F.; Alec Smythe, Sr. F.; Robert Louwers, Sr. F.; Brent Mishowski, Sr. F.

Mazzoni's 2008 outlook: "We're looking forward to the new KLA format. It looks to be four well-balanced divisions. All of the games count this year, so that is something new for us (in the league). The schedule gets tougher each year - which is good for late in the season. We graduated quite a few players, but we feel pretty good that when everything is all said-and-done, we can be right in the mix of things."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Scott Wirgau, second season.
League affiliation: KLA Kensington Conference (South Division).

PREP HOCKEY CAPSULE OUTLOOKS

Division.

Last year's overall record: 9-14-2.

Notable losses to graduation: Austin Mesler (second-team All-Area); Alex Wypych, Jordan Short, Dave Muller.

Leading returnees: Jordan Chisholm, Sr. Forward (captain); fourth-team All-Area; Tyler Barnes, Sr. F.; Tyler Miller, Jr. F. (captain); Robbie Ringe, Jr. F.; Josh Richardson, Sr. Def.; Jake Wirgau, Jr. F.; Travis Ferrier, Soph. G.; Cameron Wludyka, Sr. Def.

Promising newcomers: Pat O'Halloran, Sr. Def.

Wirgau's 2008 outlook: "After losing 12 players to graduation, we have only five returning seniors. The Patriots have added 11 new players and are looking to build on the success we had last year with the addition of a new coach. Our team is very young and most have come from the house leagues. Only time will tell."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: David Mitchell, second season.
League affiliation: KLA Kensington Conference (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 23-2-2.

Notable losses to graduation: Mike Voran (first-team All-Area); Mark Bekkala (first-team All-Area); Pat McHugh (first-team All-Area); Ryan Baraton (second-team All-Area); Jake Harbowy (second-team All-Area); Sean Lerg (fourth-team All-Area).

Leading returnees: R.J. Kierdorf, Sr. F. (second-team All-Area); John Vella, Sr. F. (fourth-team All-Area); Jake Wilson, Sr. Def.; Cole Rochowiak, Jr. F.; Nolan Wilson, Sr. Def.; Tyler Vines, Sr. Def.

Promising newcomers: Justin Shureb, Soph. F.; Matt Fox, Jr. F.

Division.

Last year's overall record: 15-9-2.

Titles won last year: Catholic League champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Heather Sartorius (All-State); Michelle Wyniemko, Abby Kienbaum, Ashley Ballarin, Maria Rotondo, Elise Sawarski.

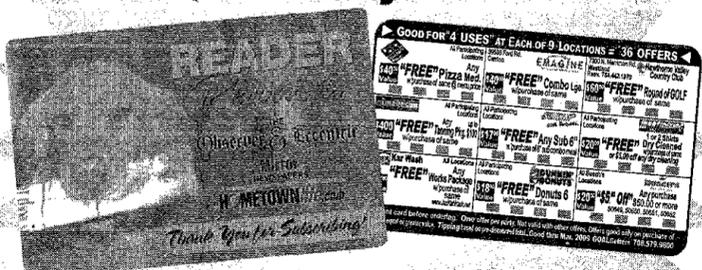
Leading returnees: Kaitlin Gaule, Jr. Def.-F. (tri-captain); Julie Bushart, Jr. Def. (tri-captain); Emann Freij, Jr. F.; Kelsey Campbell, Jr. F.

Promising newcomers: Shelby Kucharski, Sr. F. (tri-captain); Lane Kolpacke, Fr. F.; Brittany Galvin, Fr. Def.; Jessica Pavela, Soph. G.; Katie Folk, Fr. Def.

Peck's 2008 outlook: "We're a young team with a lot of inexperience. We lost seven seniors from last year's team and each contributed greatly to our success. We managed to pick up six new players and are hopeful that they can learn quickly. We hope to be a much better team in the second half of the season than the first."

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Ebonite's Demo Day provides options for bowlers

Normally you like to take a test drive before you choose a car. And now, thanks to the good folks at Ebonite, we can enjoy the same opportunity with a tryout of a new bowling ball.

The latest Ebonite Demo Days will be Sunday, Nov. 23 at Aleta Sill's Bowling World pro shop located in Country Lanes on Nine Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Ebonite's motto is "Bowl to Win" with a maximum of 10 persons per session. The squad times will be noon, 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Ebonite has a patented process of interchangeable thumb slugs and finger grips.

They fit the ball to your hand and then you go out on your lanes and "try it before you buy it."

Ebonite offers following demo balls: NVD, Complete NV, THE ONE, Playmaker and Pin Slasher.

The cost is \$20 and that would apply to the purchase if you decide to buy one from the Demo Days event.

Customers will also earn Double Loyalty Points on ball purchase for the loyalty program.



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

read: "Detroit teen was saved by his bowling ball."

While riding with friends, the 15-year-old was carrying his ball on his lap when the car was fired upon by a man driving a blue SUV. The bullet went through the rear passenger door and hit the ball, which was in a bag.

The boy was uninjured and police are investigating.

This has been a most eventful week at Taylor Lanes as members of the Pro Bowlers Association have been competing for the big dollars in prize money.

The PBA is observing its 50th year anniversary and many local amateur

Call Aleta or Michelle Mullen at (248) 615-9060 - to reserve your spot - during business hours from noon to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday; and noon-4 p.m. on Saturday.

A bowling related news item hit the front page last week in one of the dailies

bowlers have been able to participate by means of the Pro-Am days where amateur bowlers bowl for cash prizes joining three different professionals as their doubles partner.

Hats off to Taylor Lanes proprietor Erin Dobbins and her staff for again making this a huge success. The ESPN nationally-televised live finals are scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

This is in direct conflict with the Lions game, but for me, I'll watch the bowling.

The Michigan Junior Masters Association rolled into Eastland Bowl in Kalamazoo for the 20th annual Greater Kalamazoo Open, sponsored by Alro Steel.

This year's field of 92 bowlers were all vying for a title and their share of the \$3,500 in totals scholarship.

The ladies were up first with Brianna Schmansky (Westland) and Samantha Johnson (Wyoming).

Johnson bowled a clean game, but Schmansky closed with five of the last six strikes to win 224-196.

Next for Schmansky was Kayla Blanchard (Livonia) who has already won an Alro Steel MJMA title. A split

in the tenth frame for Blanchard let Schmansky take it by three pins.

In the finals, Schmansky faced Felicia Goll (St. Clair Shores), a four-time title winner. The Westland bowler struggled early and Goll threw a four-bagger starting in the fifth frame and earned her fifth MJMA title 194-150.

Kayla Blanchard was the high qualifier in the event, earning an extra \$50 in scholarship.

In the boys competition Ryan Fuller (Rochester Hills) and Logan Mills (Plymouth) each received \$50 in scholarships for finishing 11th and 12th, respectively.

The next MJMA event will be held on Nov. 15-16 at Royal Scot Lanes in Lansing. Thanks to Alro Steel and the Glick family, the MJMA has been able to award \$13,000.00 in scholarship money so far this season.

Livonian Edward Dudek was runner-up in the Metro Detroit U.S. Bowling Congress Super Senior Masters event held Nov. 2 at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The event was co-sponsored by Turbo 2-N-1 Grips, Turbo Tech and Eastown Printing.

Dudek fell in the roll-off finals to Doug Evans of Clinton Township, 234-182.

Evans had to climb the ladder with victories over Ken Voodre (Troy), Richard Grange (Clinton Township), Ron LeChevalier (Livonia) and Jim Burton (Novi), while Dudek wound up first in the losers bracket, then beat Evans to force the final match.

Evans, who qualified 14th with a five-game total of 1,018 and averaged 213.73 per game, won first-place prize of \$1,000.

Dudek, who qualified 13th with 1,026, averaged 204.46 and won \$500.

LeChevalier, who was second in the qualifying with a total of 1,098, averaged 218.7 for 10 tournament games and finished fourth to win \$300. Howard Waxer (Farmington Hills) was the last to cash in 20th place, good for \$100, not quite near the top, but still worth the effort.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame and the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by e-mail: tenpinalley710@yahoo.com.

Rosedale 5K run pays homage to war veterans

BY MARY BETH BUTLER
CORRESPONDENT

Braving a cold, windy, wet morning, more than 100 intrepid service men and women, runners, and walkers commemorated Veteran's Day a little early at the Red White and Blue 5-kilometer and 1-mile fitness walk held Nov. 8 in Livonia's Old Rosedale Gardens neighborhood.

On a day for Franklin High School runners to shine, 5K victories were shared by Dylan Taylor, 18, and fellow Patriot Brittany Dilley, 16.

Taylor easily conquered the men's field in 18:29 on a fast, flat course through his own neighborhood.

"I went out fast to get a good jump from the start, and kept passing people," Taylor said. "I was pretty tired at the start because I went out so fast, but kept pushing."

Franklin's Zach Belanger and Livonia's Michael O'Donohue, 35, took second (20:07) and third (20:40)

respectively.

Dilley clocked 23:12, ahead of fellow Franklin harrriers Megan Wickens, runner-up in 24:29, and Karen Kalinski, third in 25:57.

"I started out at a good pace and increased it the whole way," Dilley said. "I was trying to pass a football player in front of me. Over the last 1,000 meters, I reeled him in."

The Mies Park shelter, where the race began and ended, was festooned in red, white and blue by race director Chris and Bruce Johnson, and a core of hard-working neighborhood volunteers.

The event got under way with the singing of the national anthem and a color guard presentation by the Canton Young Marines and Commander Charles Volker, Department of Michigan Marine Corps, World War II League.

Chris Johnson introduced representatives from America's military conflicts from America's "Greatest Generation," including U.S.

Army World War II veteran/retired Judge John M. Dillon of Redford; Detroit News senior sportswriter Michael O'Hara, who spent two years in Army service and one year with the 20th Engineer Brigade in Vietnam.

Also honored - represented by his daughter Betsy Hughes - was the late Major FD. Pickering, who fought in Korea and died as a POW; and Toni Watson, a staff sergeant in Iraq.

One hundred percent of participants' entry fees - more than \$1,400 - was donated to the Livonia Community Foundation, which supports local charities; historical preservation; arts; cultural and recreational needs; and programs including Greenmead, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Goodfellows, the YMCA, Livonia Youth Philharmonic, and domestic abuse shelters.

Participants also donated food for the Boy Scouts' Can-Do food drive.

"Young and old from all over western-Wayne's suburbs stepped

out of their routine Saturday morning to recognize and pay respect to those who have served our country in the armed forces, donate to worthy causes, and then challenge themselves for a very brisk run - hearty souls and soles," Chris Johnson.

"We are grateful to our sponsors."

For many, including the race's youngest entrant, the event was a family affair.

Livonia's Patrick Henry, age 3, (talk about an appropriately-named American) completed his first race.

"I was going to win it," he said with a grin while enjoying pasta and pizza at the post-race festivities with dad, Dan; mom, Rhonda, and sister Meredith.

Three generations of the Vella Family took part including Dominic Vella, Sr., 62, stalwart member of the Redford/Northville Roadrunners who ran a 27:35 5K; Dominic, Jr., 34; and Charles Anthony Vella, 4, who recorded an impressive 8:24 in the mile.

BOYS SOCCER

2008 KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS SOCCER TEAM

Goalkeepers: A. J. Sweetman, Sr., Brighton; James Leffler, Sr., White Lake Lakeland; Travis Meinkwic, Sr., Milford; Brian Young, Sr., South Lyon; Dean Dzielwit, Jr., Waterford Mott; Kyle Huismann, Sr., Walled Lake Northern; Eric Neuenfelt, Sr., Pinckney.

Defenders: Jacob Clapper, Jr., Brighton; Isaiah High, Sr., Brighton; Eric Caron, Sr., Canton; Adam Bedell, Jr., Livonia Churchill; Erik Bird, Jr., Churchill; Jake Wood, Sr., Hartland; Vince Vitale, Sr., Hartland; Jamison Vogt, Jr., Howell; John Donikian, Sr., Northville; Nick Scabasi, Sr., Northville; Bobby Laski, Sr., Novi; Allan Johnson, Sr., Pinckney; Austin Kaczanowski, Sr., Plymouth; Kevin Cope, Sr., Salem; Alec Iwasko, Sr., Livonia Stevenson; Chris Long, Sr., Stevenson; Kendal Snow, Sr., Stevenson; Blake Riley, Sr., Waterford Kettering; Zach Girouard, Sr., Wayne Memorial; Brandon Berry, Jr., Walled Lake Central; Andrew Crimmins, Jr., W.L. Central; Mike Ankovich, Soph., W.L. Northern; Blake Hunter, Soph., Walled Lake Western.

Midfielder: Brian Ebert, Sr., Brighton; Zach Roggenkamp, Jr., Brighton; Kyle Breitmeyer, Sr., Canton; Scott Zech, Sr., Canton; Ian Guerin, Jr., Churchill; Etienne Lussiez, Sr., Churchill; Matt Regan, Sr., Churchill; Steve Trapp, Sr., Livonia Franklin; Zach Minor, Sr., Hartland; C.J. Axer, Jr., Howell; Jacob Gates, Sr., Westland John Glenn; Nelson Keme, Jr., John Glenn; Sergio Pavan, Sr., John Glenn; Bryan Bouck, Sr., Lakeland; Sean Carrigan, Jr., Lakeland; Trevor Drost, Sr., Milford; Latif Alashe, Sr., Northville; Nick Brockman, Sr., Novi; Cory Briggs, Jr., Pinckney; Vinh Nguyen, Jr., Plymouth; Dan Radosevich, Sr., Salem; Lachlan Savage, Jr., Salem; Jeremy Stoychoff,

Sr., Salem; Adam Gentile, Sr., South Lyon; Joey D'Agostino, Sr., Stevenson; Brian Kiemczak, Sr., Stevenson; Nate Sergison, Sr., Stevenson; Kyle Rutz, Soph., W.L. Northern; Austin Rogers, Jr., W.L. Northern; Ardit Dushkaj, Soph., W.L. Western; Nick Lewin, Jr., W.L. Western.

Forwards: Taylor Mazurek, Soph., Brighton; Sheriff Hassanien, Sr., Canton; Joseph Krizanek, Sr., Canton; Max Washko, Jr., Churchill; Zain Qureshi, Sr., Franklin; Jake Chamberlain, Sr., Hartland; Silvio Coza, Sr., Hartland; Ian Courtley, Jr., Howell; Khalid Suleiman, Sr., John Glenn; Jimmy Rock, Sr., Lakeland; Trever Stevens, Sr., Lakeland; Alex Marilley, Sr., Northville; Garrett Garuder, Sr., Novi; Chase Farley, Sr., Pinckney; Daniel Jasewicz, Jr., Plymouth; Josh Pascarella, Sr., Salem; Eric Gates, Sr., Kettering; Brad Lyons, Sr., W.L. Central; Stephen Magee, Sr., W.L. Western; Nolan Nunez, Sr., South Lyon East.

KENSINGTON CONFERENCE STANDINGS
South Division: 1. Churchill, 10-0; 2. Canton, 8-2; 3. John Glenn, 5-5; 4. Plymouth, 4-5; 5. Franklin, 2-7; 6. Wayne, 0-10.

Central Division: 1. Stevenson, 8-0-2; 2. Salem, 7-0-3; 3. Northville, 5-4-1; 4. Novi, 3-5-2; 5. South Lyon, 2-6-2; 6. S. Lyon East, 0-10.

LAKES CONFERENCE STANDINGS
North Division: 1. W.L. Northern, 5-1-4; 2. Lakeland, 6-2-2; 3. W.L. Western, 4-4-2; 4. W.L. Central, 4-4-2; 5. Kettering, 3-6-1; 6. Mott, 2-7-1.

West Division: 1. Brighton, 6-0-2; 2. Hartland, 6-2; 3. Pinckney, 4-2-2; 4. Howell, 2-6; 5. Milford, 0-8.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

BEAUTIFUL SBF..
37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. ☎271683

HONEST & DOWN-TO-EARTH
Cute, outgoing woman, 40, loves animals, the outdoors. Seeking honest, clean, honorable, compassionate gentleman, 40s-early 50s, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. ☎295421

WHY NOT CALL?
SBF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-40, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. ☎217234

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 47, 5'5", 120lbs, long blonde/blue, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, manly gentleman. ☎992549

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR?
WF, 48, 5'3", brown/blonde, has pale, N/S, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. ☎280581

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. ☎289947

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Easygoing DWF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-65, with the same qualities, minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. ☎279171

MUSICAL GIRL
Christian WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 18-25, who enjoys the same things. ☎292258

ARE YOU LONELY?
Attractive female, 5'5", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 55-75. ☎891247

GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Good looking SBF, hwp, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 5'7" +, 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. ☎147056

SINGLE DAD WELCOME
PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 36-43, to share what life has to offer. ☎299002

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, 5'2", 160lbs, black hair brown eyes, light complexion, N/D, N/S, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SBM, 38-51. ☎284368

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. ☎662311

CURVACEOUS
SWF, 47, 5'7", 155lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SBM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. ☎265605

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!
W/WF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62-70, must be honest, N/S, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. ☎976914

HONEY BLONDE
SBF seeks down-to-earth SM, 25-65, with morals and values, who knows how to have fun in life, is family-oriented. ☎291187

COULD IT BE YOU?
SBF, 44, professional, hard-working, independent, enjoys church, shopping, more. Looking for a SPM, 44, employed, open-minded, warm-hearted and considerate, to share all life has to offer. ☎235988

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Asian woman, 5'2", 110lb, slim, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel, quiet times at home. Seeking very handsome W/AM, 47-56, N/S, clean-shaven, H/W proportionate, for friendship first. ☎281229

A POLISHED DIAMOND
Attractive, sexy B/F, 34, seeks true gentleman. You won't be disappointed when we meet! ☎287057

WARM SMILE
SBF, 21, N/S, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other. ☎291187

A SPECIAL GUY
Only serious need reply
Voluptuous SBF, 42, who would like to become acquainted with a woman and who is ready, willing, and able to commit. ☎273603

A NEW BEGINNING
SBF, 47, 5'4", likes action movies, swimming, dancing, plays outdoors, and travel. Seeking SM, 45-55, for friendship or more. ☎289151

PETITE AND CUTE
SWF, 35, great sense of style, very friendly, would like to meet a SWM, 36-45, who will love me for me. ☎294943

THAT SPECIAL ONE
SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, just chilling. Looking for WM, 39-45, for possible relationship. ☎295026

SEEKING STRONG BM
Can you handle me? SBF, mid 40s, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, bald BM, 40-62, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laid-back, gentle, soft. ☎291187

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, sporty, pretty SF, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. ☎230694

CLASSY LADY
I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. ☎982305

SEEKING LOVING KINDNESS?
SBPF, 55, 5'4", interested in developing new friendships, maybe more. Seeks energetic, N/S SM, 40-65, that loves reading, midnight picnics, walking, and exciting conversations. Must have good SOH and self-worth. ☎282618

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 5'2", 180lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, N/D, N/S. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. ☎113901

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? ☎271085

LET'S GET TOGETHER

SBF, 54, 5'8", N/S, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SB/WM, 48-62, N/S, for friendship or more. ☎282444

OUTGOING
BF, 24, student, looking for BM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. ☎292940

HAVE A GOOD HEART?
WF, 33, 5'5", blonde/green, looking for WM, 22-45, who loves Nasar, classic rock and more. ☎293230

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
SWF, 55, 5'6", N/S, H/W proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike rides, working out, taking walks, autumn. Seeking SW/WM, 45-65, for dating, possible LTR. ☎286774

COUNTRY GIRL
Good-natured, classy, attractive, fun-loving SWPF, 54, platinum/blue, 5'5", H/W-proportionate, enjoys travel, horseback riding, exercise, dancing. Seeking SWM, 55-65, N/S, N/Drugs, for serious relationship. If you love motorcycles call me. ☎759845

LADY IN THE WOODS
SWF, 60, looks younger, blonde/hazel, 5'5", average build, educated, dog lover, classy, sexy and fun, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted male to share the good things in life. Livingston county. ☎216247

CHOCOLATE TREAT
Refined, romantic, creative divorcee, enjoys an eclectic lifestyle. Professionally employed, very youthful and fun loving, 60s, enjoys dining, travel, music, the arts, family and friends. Seeking fit non-smoking gentleman, 50+. ☎281197

BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST
Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'8", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, motorcycles, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking attractive gentleman, 42-53, with like interests/qualities, for friendship/LTR. ☎245846

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD
SWF, 21, red hair, blue eyes, 5'10", 165lbs, mature bodymind, looking for a lonely handsome man, 20-30, race open, clean-cut, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. ☎292913

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO, honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S. Possible LTR. ☎963760

STILL SEEKING
Very cute SBF, 57, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 46-59, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. ☎131198

ARE YOU SEEKING?
DWF, 69, 5'2", Italian, brunette, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet N/S WM, 60-72, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family, for dating. ☎630908

I NEED A LOVE...
to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, delightful, charming WF, 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. ☎56059

CLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-69, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/morals. ☎207264

WHAT'S UP?

SBM, 27, N/S, looking for cool, down-to-earth woman, 20-34, for friendship first, maybe more. ☎29652

MAXIMUM RETURN ON...
your investment. SBM, 5'9", seeks mature, level-headed, down-to-earth female, 30-45, for fun, dating and possible LTR. ☎293156

YOU NEED ME
SBM, 43, slim, well-groomed, attractive, seek attractive, slim lady to get to know, for dating, maybe more. You won't be disappointed! ☎291112

TAKE A CHANCE
WM, 38, likes cars, all kind of music, having fun, movies and more. Looking for a woman, 30-59, to have fun with. ☎296181

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS
WM, 6'2", 200lbs, light brown/blue, N/S, clean-shaven, down-to-earth, looking for a female, 25-45, H/W proportionate, N/S, for dating. ☎296310

LET'S TALK
BM looking for BF, 28-54, with good sense of humor who loves bowling, long walks and more. ☎286604

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
SWM, 70s, 5'4", N/S, would like to meet a lady, 65-72, I enjoy taking walks, riding bikes, taking trips. Seeking SWF, 62-75, for friendship, maybe more. ☎275970

READY FOR A RELATIONSHIP
Male, 60, tall, slim, attractive, brown/brown, no bad habits, would like to meet a nice, sweet, kind female, 40-70. ☎287161

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 46, looking for that special person for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418

GOOD BETTER BEST!
SWM, 49, 5'9", 190lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎982943

KIND AND COMPASSIONATE
Attractive SWPM, 48, 5'10", 190lbs, N/S, never married, loves outdoors, going to church, traveling, family time, candle light dinners, movies, seeking kind and caring hard-working lady, 30-50, for possible LTR. ☎291180

SEEK COMPATIBLE WOMAN
WM, youthful 60s, N/S, looking for WF, 50-70, to enjoy quiet evenings and great times together. ☎297594

HANDSOME & FUN-LOVING
Sincere, fun-loving, down-to-earth SBM, 44, ISO romantic, honest, intelligent BF, 25-55, with great SOH, for companionship, possible LTR. ☎988147

JUST ME AND MY DOG
WM, 5'11", 180lbs, short dark green, likes rollerblading, biking, running, the outdoors, animals, more. Looking for SF, 21-37, with a cool personality and can appreciate an awesome guy. ☎272374

HONEST AND SINCERE
DWM, 52, 5'10", 150lbs, likes roller skating, computers, biking, boating and some old movies. Seeking SW/HF, slim to medium build, for dating and LTR. ☎266288

BOATER SEEKS 1ST MATE
SWM, 50, 5'10", 180lbs, fun-loving, enjoys boating, good music, working out. Seeking very attractive SF, 28-40, race unimportant, for friendship leading to possible LTR. ☎205048

WANTED: ONE NICE GIRL
SHF, 46, 5'10", average build, likes going out and having fun, movies, parties, just chilling and great SOH, for friendship first, maybe more. ☎289039

QUALITY TIME TOGETHER
SBM, 42, 6'3", 200lbs+, no children, light smoker, looking for SBF, 35-45, who enjoys bowling, movies, shooting pool. ☎291168

SEMI-RETIRED
SBM, 41, 6'1", 220lbs, N/S, light drinker, likes great SOH, for friendship first, maybe more. Looking for SF, 18-31, to hang out with and get to know. ☎294679

IT COULD BE ME!
SWM, 35, 6', brown/blue, muscular build, looking for special SF, 18-31, to hang out with and get to know. ☎294679

LET'S TALK
SWM, 40, 5'8", loves to party! Looking for a female companion, 18-35, for friendship first, possibly more if it develops. ☎294946

TALK TO ME!
SM, 36, 6'2", 210lbs, medium build, loves working out, seeking, loving, caring, kind SW/ BF, 35-45. ☎284942

MATURE WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 38, 6'1", 207lbs, dark complexion, no kids, N/S, N/Drugs, looking for SBF, 29-40, with same qualities. No drama! ☎295482

LET'S MEET
WM, 52, 5'6", brown/hazel, likes sports, fishing, camping and spending time with a special lady, 32-45. If you are interested, please call me. ☎286669

NEW VISTAS
SWM, 53, semi-retired, I'm friendly, down-to-earth, seeking a WF, who's non-materialistic, and especially someone who enjoys a warm and witty personality. Smoker ok. ☎295842

ARE YOU THE ONE?
Handsome BM, 39, easygoing enjoys dining, movies, talks, walks, having fun, quiet times. Looking for compatible SBF, 27-37, who enjoys life. ☎290798

NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN?
SWM, nice-looking and friendly seeks interesting female, 35-51, for dating and friendship. ☎292944

A GREAT GUY
Good-natured, good-looking SWM, 41, energetic, versatile, fun, passionate, into boating, casinos, flea markets. Seeking conversation SWF, for conversation and connection. ☎176478

A WALK AND A TALK
Try this easygoing, lovable SWM, 50, good listener, who enjoys book stores, coffee shops, nature and concerts. I seek a like-minded counterpart for where ever it goes. ☎200890

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Cool, humble BM, looking for a classy lady who is down-to-earth and likes having fun. 20-29. ☎294314

DECENT, GOOD MAN
Faithful, humble, understanding SBM, 56, N/S, with good values and morals, financially independent, looking for love with SF, 50-62, N/S. ☎295860

HARDWORKING
WM, 50, two children not at home, likes animals, Nasar, the outdoors, working in the yard and more. Seeking WF, 34-55, to spend time with and get to know. ☎296503

NEW TO DETROIT
SM in search of that one special woman to bond with. Should be fun, family-oriented, and want a real man in her life! ☎296694

ARE WE COMPATIBLE?

Very affectionate, loving SM, enjoys spending time at home, dining out and more. Would like to meet a beautiful woman, 18-49, for dating, hopefully more. ☎258820

RETIRED
SWM, 65, smoker, wants to meet a SWF, 48-67, prefer heavyset, for friendship first. I love cooking, devoting time to a loving companion. ☎284754

WELL-ROUNDED
DWM, retired gentleman of independent means, emotionally/financially secure, honest, eclectic, N/S, seeks slender, physically fit woman who loves the outdoors. ☎284895

LOVELY AND READY
SWM, 65, average build, Italian, Virgo, N/S, looking for a SWF with similar qualities and who's ready for a serious relationship. Call me if interested. Redford. ☎66605

TRUE GENTLEMAN
WM, 75, would like to meet female, 65-75, N/S, for friendship, companionship and more. ☎293604

SOMEONE SPECIAL!
SBM, 61, 6'1", H/W proportionate, brown eyes, beautiful smile, affectionate, getting ready to retire, homeowner, loves fishing, vegetable and flower gardens, antiques, walks in the park. Seeking SF, 45-63. ☎295048

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
Handsome, mature gent SWM, 50, traditional values, romantic, and thoughtful, enjoys cultural events, antiquing, short trips, etc. Seeking SWF for friendship and companionship. ☎176497

TALL AND ATHLETIC
SWM, 49, 6'2", 200lbs, part-time personal trainer, brown/blue, depressed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308

LOOKING FOR SOULMATE
Attractive SWM, 63", 185lbs, N/S, ND, shy, fit, enjoys carpentry, riding my bicycle, gardening and more. Seeking a SWF, 50-60, with similar interests, for possible LTR. ☎248074

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE
Sociable SM, 57, 5'7", graying brown/blue, mustache, loves music, cooking, Italian food, reading, writing action and romance films, quality conversations, romance. ISO good-hearted, creative, WF to share these. ☎223744

SEEKS SOULMATE
SWM seeks brunette, 23-55, who is a little on the shy side, knows how to have fun. ☎286880

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
SWM, 5'10", 190lbs, active retiree looking for Black or Asian female, 50+ for long-term relationship and possibly more. I enjoy travel, sports, casinos, health clubs and I'm social-drinker. ☎287100

AM I YOUR MISTER RIGHT?
SM, 28, 5'8", 165lbs, two tattoos, muscular build, goatee, nice smile, seeks SF, 19-47, for friendship or more. ☎287140

LEAVE ME A MESSAGE
Spontaneous BM likes working out, riding motorcycles, being outdoors and more. Would like to meet a woman with a similar personality. 35-50. ☎287900

HANDSOME MALE
SBM, 6', HWP, professionally employed, kind, considerate, confident, likes concerts, travel, dining. Seeking WF, 30-58, attractive, passionate, loving, affectionate. ☎984967

LET'S MEET UP
SWM, 53, brown/blue, 115lbs, smoker, looking for a nice, young lady, 18-25, to light up my life. ☎290575

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
SWM, 32, N/S, interested in meeting a lady, 35-42, for friendship first, maybe more. ☎290958

LOOK NO FURTHER
SBM, 22, 6', 175lbs, light smoker, no children, looking for SF, 18-30, for friendship first, possibly more. ☎281487

IS THIS LOVE?
SWM, 34, 170lbs, 5'9", into Church of Satan, the macabre, theater, movie critique, music and living. Former musician seeking woman, 25-40, into the occult and ritual. ☎282920

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
BM, 6'4", 250lbs, very outgoing, likes having fun. Would like to meet an attractive, outgoing, intelligent female, 46-64, who wants to enjoy life. ☎293433

SEEK LOYAL WOMAN
BM, 6'11", 275lbs, enjoys reading, movies, sports, comedy clubs and more. Would like to meet an intelligent, down-to-earth, sincere, trustworthy, patient BF, 34-50, petite/medium build, to enjoy life with. ☎29546

EDUCATED, HAPPY MAN
SWM, early 50s, 6'2", athletically built. Likes movies, coffee houses, pubs, sports. ISO female with similar interests and a desire for companionship. Open to all ages and race. ☎289988

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
SBM, 55, looking for non-smoking, independent female, 25-45, for friendship first, maybe more. ☎294747

LAIID-BACK AND COOL
SBM, 33, 5'7", seeks petite, small SBF, 29-44, who is smart, intelligent and laid-back, has a sense of humor. ☎295190

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
SBM, 5'11", 156lbs, slim build, likes to relax and chill. Would like to meet a woman, 20-56, who judges beauty from the inside, like I do. ☎295446

STAND BY YOUR MAN
Smart SWM, 50, 5'11", 180lbs, employed, ISO BF, 25-55, for a real relationship. I like cooking, cuddling and more. ☎295474

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC
Tall, athletic SWM, 48, 6'2", 200lbs, brown/blue, no dependents, college-educated, clean-cut, good sense of humor, outgoing, seeks friendly SF, for fun. Age/location open. ☎587540

VANILLA DEERING CHOCOLATE
Call me if you seek a nice shape, SWM, blue-eyed blonde, 50-year-old, 180lbs, desires SBF for friendship and definitely romance. ☎672855

ARE YOU THE ONE?
SBM, 57", looking for SB/WF, 18-28, who is good-looking, independent, to get to know! Friendship possibly leading to something special. ☎296004

SEEKING SOUL MATE
Nice-looking SWM, 66, H/W-proportionate, 5'9", 165lbs, N/S, social drinker, enjoys shooting pool, movies, dining out. Seeking attractive SWF, 48-60, N/S, H/W-proportionate, petite, loving, adventurous, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎292815

ITALIAN MALE
SM, 56, likes movies, dining out, gardening, just enjoying life. Seeking similar female for companionship. ☎295164

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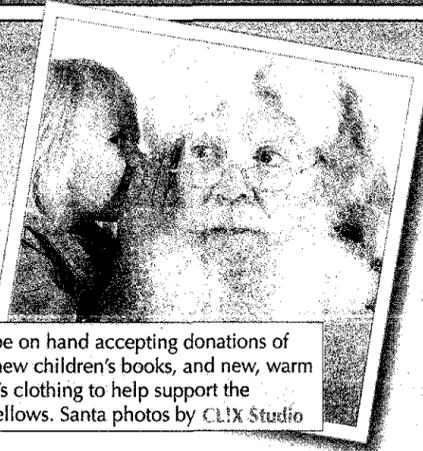
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Hosted by the Canton Downtown Development Authority, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Leisure Services.

Readers offer more favorite Thanksgiving recipes

Have a great family Thanksgiving side dish recipe? If so share it with us. Send to Lmini@hometownlife.com Subject line: Thanksgiving recipe

SWEET POTATO YUM-YUM

By Tina Foreman, Livonia

3 cups mashed candied yams (I use 3 cups fresh cooked yams and mash them - about 2 or 3 yams)
2 eggs
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 stick butter, melted

Mix above ingredients together and place in a baking dish. Mix the next four ingredients together and sprinkle on top:

1 stick butter or margarine
1 cup flour
1/2 cup sugar (I use brown sugar)
1 cup chopped nuts (I use walnuts)

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until heated through.

APPLE TART

by Julie Feldman, co-owner, Guys N Gals, West Bloomfield

1 package (16 ounces) frozen puff pastry, defrosted until soft enough to roll, but still very cold

Caramel Sauce:
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
3 tablespoons butter

Apple Filling:
6 large tart cooking apples
4 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 egg lightly beaten with 1 teaspoon water, for glaze

Place oven rack in lowest position. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

On lightly floured surface, roll half of the pastry (1 sheet)



into a 13-inch square. Transfer to an 11-inch tart pan with a removable bottom. Press pastry onto bottom and sides of pan, trim edges even with top rim. Refrigerate pastry-lined pan and remaining pastry while preparing the sauce and filling.

Caramel sauce: combine sugar and water in a heavy medium-sized saucepan. Cook over moderately high heat, without stirring, until mixture turns golden brown. Immediately remove from heat and slowly stir in cream. The sugar will harden, but stirring will smooth it out. Stir in butter until melted.

Pie Filling: Peel and thinly slice the apples. Heat butter in a large skillet over moderate high heat. Sauté apples, turning often, until barely tender (about 5-8 minutes). Remove from heat and sprinkle sugar and flour, stirring until coated. Pour hot apples with their juices into pastry-lined pan.

Measure 1/2 cup of caramel sauce and pour over apples, save the rest of the caramel sauce.

Roll remaining pastry and cut a 12-inch circle. Cut a one-inch circle in the center. Place over apples, press onto rim of pan and trim edges. Brush the top with egg glaze. Take remaining dough and decorate the top if desired. If you do, brush with egg as well.

Bake on a cookie sheet, 30-40 minutes until deep golden brown. Let cool 10 minutes. Freeze or serve it the next day. Just reheat for 5-10 minutes and

reheat the caramel, too.

MANDARIN-ORANGE SALAD

Mickey Arseneault, Livonia

It is a nice addition for a festive occasion and is a favorite of ours not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year.

Dressing:
1/2 cup salad oil
1/2 cup cider vinegar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 tablespoon finely grated onion
1/2 teaspoon ground dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon celery seed

Salad:
1/2 pound washed spinach, torn into pieces
1/2 cup purple cabbage, shredded
2 tablespoons slivered almonds, toasted
1 small can Mandarin oranges, drained

Combine all dressing ingredients in a jar, shake well and refrigerate. Place all salad ingredients in a bowl. Shake the dressing well and pour over salad. Toss together and serve. The dressing should just coat the spinach, so there may be some left over. Remaining dressing will keep in the refrigerator up to one week.

Toasting almonds: Place on a cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 4-5 minutes until lightly browned.

SWISS VEGETABLE MEDLEY

By Sue Miles of Northville

1 package (16 ounce) frozen broccoli, carrots and cauliflower combination, thawed and drained
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese, divided
1 cup sour cream
1 can (6 ounce size) French-fried onions, divided
Ground pepper to taste
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Set aside 1/2 of the cheese, and 1/2 of the onions.

In a medium size bowl, com-

bine vegetables, soup, sour cream, 1/2 cup cheese, 1/2 can fried onions, and pepper.

Pour ingredients into a 2-quart casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Sprinkle remaining cheese and onions on top of the casserole and bake an additional 5 minutes, or until onions are lightly browned. Serves 6-8.

CARROT CASSEROLE

Submitted by Jim Miller of Publicity Works, Ferndale. The recipe by his grandmother, Joy Powers

3 cups mashed cooked carrots (1 1/2 pounds)
1 1/2 cups cracker crumbs
1 1/2 cups half and half
4 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 cup melted margarine or butter
1 small onion, chopped
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
4 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together, except eggs.

Beat eggs one minute on high. Fold into above ingredients. Pour into greased bundt pan. Bake for 45 minutes. Cool 20 minutes.

CRAN-RASPBERRY MOLD

Mickey Arseneault of Livonia

6 ounce pkg. raspberry Jello
1 1/2 cups boiling water
20 ounce can crushed pineapple, un-drained
16 ounce can whole or jellied cranberry sauce
1 cup (8 ounces) dairy sour cream
Optional: 1 cup chopped walnuts

In small bowl dissolve jello in boiling water.

In large bowl mix together the un-drained pineapple, cranberry sauce and sour cream.

Slowly add Jello into this mixture and combine well.

Pour into sprayed 6 1/2 cup mold. Let stand overnight. Easily serves 12.

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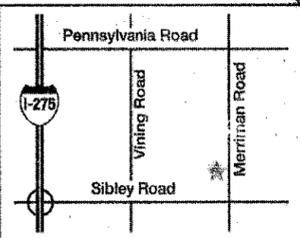
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Eat, drink and be merry in these eateries and bars at Thanksgiving

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

The day before Thanksgiving is the biggest bar night of the year. It's bigger than New Year's Eve.

Here are some suggested venues where you can party on Thanksgiving Eve, dine out on Thanksgiving Day or get a carry out.

Remember, if you are drinking any amount of alcohol you need a designated driver. Hire one by calling Your Designated Driver, (248) 736-5201 — 24 hours a day.

Reservations are required at many locations.

THANKSGIVING EVE

Ferndale — There's a big Thanksgiving Eve Bash with rockers Dangerous Pursuit, Broadzilla and Nova Driver at friendly, hip The New Way Bar, 23130 Woodward. Admission is \$5. (248) 541-9870

Redford — Party at the Redford Bullfrog Bar & Grill, 15414 Telegraph, beginning at 7 p.m. with the Johnny Legardy Early band. It gets packed here on Thanksgiving Eve with a boisterous crowd. (313) 533-4477

Rochester — "The bash of all bashes" is at Gus O' Connor's Public House, 324 Main. Friendly, laid-back and crowded. (248) 608-2537

Royal Oak — Festive and fun. Pronto on Thanksgiving Eve is a tradition for many at this gay-friendly restaurant and bar located at 608 Washington, (248) 544-7900

Troy — Mario's After Dark is located inside Mario's restaurant, 1477 John R. The place is jumping "after dark." Live music with The Detroit Jam with Bee, McCarty and Edwards and should be a chic place for Thanksgiving Eve. (248) 588-6000

THANKSGIVING DAY

Berkley — So what if it's an Irish pub? It's still in America! The Blarney Stone Pub is serving turkey on Thanksgiving at 27253 Woodward Avenue. (248) 541-1881

Birmingham — The Rugby Grille inside the Townsend Hotel offers a



Thanksgiving dinner menu at noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Price for adults ranges from \$70-\$76, depending on entree. Children's menu is \$22. The hotel is at 100 Townsend Street, (248) 642-7900.

Also, Epoch Restaurant Group celebrates Thanksgiving at Forté, 201 S. Old Woodward. Dinner will be served at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. by reservation only. Adults, \$29.95 per person; children 12 and under \$15.95. (248) 594-7300.

Bloomfield Hills — The Moose Preserve, 43034 N. Woodward, offers a regular menu and holiday menu on Thanksgiving. (248) 858-7688.

Canton — Looking for something to do Thanksgiving morning away from the huge parade in Detroit? Try the Turkey Trot for a Cause. It's a 5K walk/run through scenic Heritage Park and Pheasant Run Golf Club to benefit the Epilepsy Foundation. It's presented by the Canton Sports Center, (734) 483-5600. Registration is 8:30 a.m. at the Pheasant Run Golf Club, 6500 Summit Parkway. (734) 397-6460.

Garden City — Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, serves dinner in an upbeat atmosphere. They also have horseshoe and virtual golf. (734) 525-5231.

Livonia — After eating dinner with the family on Thanksgiving, go out for some relaxation at The Penalty Box Bar, 28121 Plymouth Road. Karaoke

begins at 9 p.m. \$11 domestic beer buckets. (734) 522-8269

Novi — The Epoch Thanksgiving Buffet at Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., benefits Forgotten Harvest, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Lions game also will be televised. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$13 for kids 5-12 and free for kids 4 and under. Cash bar. (248) 348-5600.

Plymouth — Ernesto's Italian Garden, 41661 Plymouth Road, offers a large Thanksgiving buffet. Adults \$25; children 6-10 \$10; free for kids under 5. (734) 453-7490.

Rochester — Thanksgiving dinner with Kruse & Muer from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., adults \$15.95; kids \$6.95. Locations: Kruse & Muer on Main, 327 S. Main, (248) 652-9400; Kruse & Muer in the Village, 34 N. Adams, (248) 375-2503 and Rochester Chop House, 306 S. Main, (248) 651-2266.

Royal Oak — Lily's Seafood, 410 S. Washington, offers a Thanksgiving feast from noon to 8 p.m. Adults \$23; \$13 for kids 5-12; kids under 5 dine free. (248) 591-LILY

Westland — Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 N. Merriman, offers brunch and dinner on Thanksgiving. It's \$17 for adults; \$10 for kids 6-10; and free for kids 5 and under. (734) 422-3456.

HOW ABOUT A CARRY OUT?

West Bloomfield — Thanksgiving-to-go with turkey, pan gravy, savory pan dressing, dauphine potatoes, braised red cabbage, Michigan spaghetti squash, fall harvest salad, cheddar raisin rolls and pumpkin cheesecake for \$20 per person and orders must be placed by Monday, Nov. 24 at Deli Unique, 6724 Orchard Lake Road. (248) 737-3890

AND FOR VEGETARIANS

We couldn't find a restaurant serving vegetarian meals this year. However, if you need a meatless Thanksgiving dinner, find "Tofurky" meals with stuffing, gravy and all the fixings at Whole Foods Stores with locations in Ann Arbor, Troy, Rochester Hills and West Bloomfield.

Enjoy perfect turkey toasters

Thanksgiving is an American holiday. As such then, we're recommending a host of wines made in the U.S. that will satisfy the array of foods at a classic Thanksgiving meal.

GETTING STARTED

Even if wine is not a traditional family meal starter beverage, it is quite often at Thanksgiving.



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

Because of its versatility, Riesling is a perfect aperitif pour. Support Michigan vintners with your purchase. Our favorites in a dry style from the excellent 2007 vintage are made by Brys Estate, Chateau Fontaine, Left Foot Charley and Penn Valley.

Chateau Fontaine makes a lovely off-dry style and so does Shady Lane Cellars.

For those who are not fans of red wine, the Rieslings recommended above will make a versatile match with turkey and all the trimmings.

PINOT NOIR

High-toned red fruit aromas with hints of brown spices and loads of red and black cherry, strawberry and raspberry flavors make pinot noir a delightful and perfect pairing with turkey and its traditional accompaniments. Pinot noir pairs well with just about everything you'll put on the table.

Its only drawback is price. Pinot noir is expensive. Pinots at \$20 and under are a waste of money. They're thin, lacking fruit and the acidity is out of balance on the high side. So drink the good stuff, less perhaps, but you can't miss with the following in a broad range of prices.

- Babcock: 2007 Santa Rita Hills Grand Cuvee, \$45.
- Cambria: 2006 Bench Break Vineyard, \$30.
- Dutton Goldfield: 2006 Dutton Ranch, Freestone Hill Vineyard, \$58 and 2006 Dutton Ranch, Sanchietti Vineyard, \$58.
- Etude: 2006 Carneros, \$42.
- La Crema: 2006 Anderson Valley, \$34; 2006 Los Carneros, \$34; and 2006 Russian River Valley, \$34.

■ MacMurray Ranch: 2006 Russian River Valley, \$37.

■ MacRostie: 2006 Carneros, \$30.

■ Marimar Estate: 2006 Don Miguel Vineyard "La Masia," \$45.

■ Morgan: 2006 Tondre Grapefield, \$45; 2006 Double L Vineyard, \$62; 2006 Garys' Vineyard, \$62 and 2006 Rosella's Vineyard, \$62.

■ Sanford: 2006 Santa Rita Hills, \$34.

■ TAZ: 2006 Santa Barbara County, \$25 and 2006 Santa Maria Valley, \$28.

■ Williams Selyem: 2006 Vista Verde Vineyard, \$54; 2006 Flax Vineyard, \$54; 2006 Hirsch Vineyard, \$72; 2006 Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard, \$75; and 2006 Allen Vineyard, \$78.

Not every retailer will have all of these selections, but if you can find at least one, in a comfortable price range, jump on it.

ZINFANDEL

It's bigger, richer and rounder than pinot noir, yet the red and black fruit profile along with brown spiciness, make zinfandel a good bet at a Thanksgiving table.

As you look through the pinot noir list, notice that most of our recommendations are single-vineyard wines. We're following a similar theme with zinfandel, new from Ravenswood, called the 2006 Single Vineyard Designate Zinfandels. They include at \$35 each: Barricia Sonoma Valley, Belloni Russian River Valley, Big River Alexander Valley, Dickerson Napa Valley and Teldeschi Dry Creek Valley.

Ravenswood's 2006 Old Hill Sonoma Zinfandel, is also in the collection at \$60. Zinfandel vines for this wine may be the oldest in Sonoma County and are mixed with 14 other varieties but these are blended by noted winemaker Joel Peterson to be 75 percent zinfandel.

Wallet friendly zinfandels include 2006 Simi Sonoma County, \$20 and 2006 Sebastiani Dry Creek Valley, \$24.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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Everyone loves a parade

Holiday parades as big as ever, thanks to support from community, sponsors

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
O&E STAFF WRITER

Santa will wave to kids from area holiday parades that are as big and festive as ever.

Despite tough economic times and downsizing, sponsors and community involvement are ensuring that parades continue to shine, say organizers. Audiences are expected to be just as big too — perhaps because times are hard.

“You know how people go back to comfort food — this is a comfort event,” said Chris Morrisroe of Art Van Furniture, longtime lead sponsor of the 82nd America’s Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Detroit. “You know you are going to have a good time.”

The two-hour Thanksgiving Day parade is one of the country’s oldest. It includes a local and national broadcast.

It’s presented by the Parade Co., a division of the The Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, a non-profit organization made up of hundreds of local businesses and civic leaders.



JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/FILE PHOTO

Santa, pictured at Rochester’s annual Christmas parade, is still the star of any parade at this time of year as he waves and wishes a Merry Christmas to those along the route.

The Rochester Christmas Parade, meanwhile, has a new major sponsor — Chrysler Corp.

“Chrysler’s presenting sponsorship of this community-wide endeavor cannot be underestimated,” said Sheri Heiney, executive director of the Rochester Regional

Chamber, which organizes the parade. “We are very grateful that they chose to support the greater Rochester area, and the tens of thousands of parade attendees, volunteers and participants.”

“This is a 57-year-old tradition in the community. It’s heavily supported by the com-

munity, that’s what makes it special.”

The Sunday, Dec. 7, parade is the area’s biggest Christmas parade and will be televised.

Here’s more on each parade, as well as others in the area:

What: 82nd America’s Thanksgiving Parade
When: 9:20 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27

Where: The downtown Detroit parade begins at Mack and Woodward, winds its way down Woodward Avenue and ends at Congress.

Grandstand seats: \$24 to \$48.

Broadcast: Live broadcast on WDIV-TV Channel 4 begins at 10 a.m. NewsTalk 760 WJR will also broadcast live.

About: The theme is Legends and Lollipops. Several Olympians will serve as Grand Marshals and will ride on the Let Freedom Ring float. They include Peter Vanderkaay, who grew up in Rochester Hills, Cheryl Angelelli, Garrett Weber Gale

Please see **PARADES, D5**



The 48-foot-tall Flicker the Dragon balloon will be pulled down Woodward Avenue in Detroit by 20 Art Van representatives, stopping periodically to do the “Flicker Spin.”

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Cooks Sparkling (all varieties) 2/\$12 750 ml	Vendage Special (all varieties) \$7.99 1.5 ltr	Delicato (all varieties) 2/\$19 1.5 ltr

PARADES

FROM PAGE D4

and Lindsay Tarpley. Among the celebrities appearing will be Detroit native Vickie Winans, award-winning gospel singer, who will sing during preshow coverage and then join the parade route. The Putting America on Wheels float is among those making a debut. The UAW-GM float showcases the auto industry's progression from the start of assembling vehicles to modern-day robotic technology.

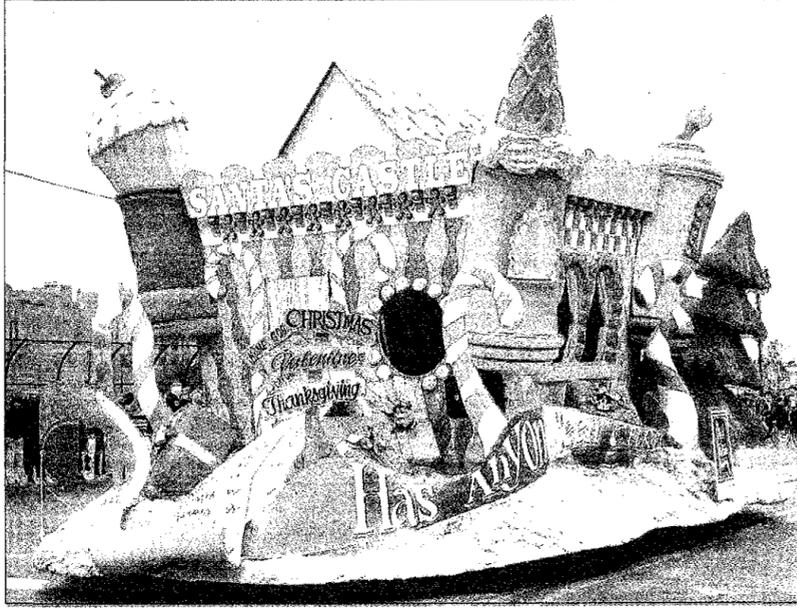
Other events: The 26th Annual Turkey Trot, Michigan's largest 10 kilometer run, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank; Holidays on Parade, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 29-30 at The Parade Co., which allows kids and adults to see the parade's papier-mache heads and floats as well as enjoy entertainment and treats. Admission is \$5 per person, ages 2 and under free; Tickets for activities and food \$1 each.

For more information: visit www.theparade.org

What: 57th Rochester Christmas Parade

When: 1:45-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Where: The parade starts down Main Street from the corner of Tienken and Rochester roads, led by the Rochester police, Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Grand Marshal and dignitaries.



The America's Thanksgiving Parade Art Van Furniture float, Has Anyone Seen Christmas?, is based on a locally written children's book about an elf who falls off Santa's sleigh and then looks through other holidays to find Christmas.

Broadcast: Live broadcast on WXYZ Channel 7

About: The theme is Christmas Around the World. Grand Marshal is former City of Rochester Mayor Tom Werth. New this year is Chrysler's "Everyday Heroes" float, which debuted during Detroit's 2005 Thanksgiving Day Parade. The patriotic float features a policeman, fireman and an emergency worker. Military veterans will travel on the float as well as march alongside it. A free shuttle service, 12:15-4:30 p.m., will have pickup at

Chase Bank, 1290 Walton Blvd., drop off at Chase Bank, Pine and Fourth Streets.

Other events: From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., there'll be a Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at the Older Persons' Commission at 650 Letica Drive. Adults \$5, children 12 and under \$2. A

4:30-5:30 p.m. Community Afterglow with Santa Claus is at Bordine Nursery, 1835 S. Rochester Road at Hamlin, sponsored by Bordine Nursery and Busch's Supermarket of Rochester Hills. Bring a camera for pictures with Santa. Downtown Rochester will be aglow in

the evening with its annual light show.

For more information: visit www.rrc-mi.com.

Other area parades are:

What: Hometown Holidays, Holiday Lighted Parade

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21

Where: Northville

About: Northville welcomes Santa to town with a parade full of lights, sparkle and music. Enjoy free cider, coffee, hot chocolate and treats along with festive activities. Santa makes a stop for kids to get in their Christmas wishes after the parade.

Presented by: The Northville Central Business Association, Toll Brothers and the Northville Christian Assembly.

What: seventh annual Holiday Magic Parade

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22

Where: downtown Royal Oak

About: The seventh annual Holiday Magic Parade on

Washington from Lincoln to Fourth Streets has more than 55 floats and live entertainment. There'll be free parking downtown until 2 p.m.

Presented by: The Downtown Development Authority.

Other: From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. meet with Santa at Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theater, 415 S Lafayette

What: 47th annual Santaland Parade

When: 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

Where: Garden City

About: The theme is "All Stars/All Sports Christmas." It will start at Moeller Field and proceed east on Ford Road to Middlebelt, then north to the high school parking lot. Santa will receive the Key to the City from the mayor at city hall.

Garden City residents can watch the parade on cable as well: GCTV Channel 12 Comcast/Channel 18 WOW.

The Santaland Parade is self-supporting through sponsorships and donations with the largest contribution from the Downtown Development Authority.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

To submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

NOVEMBER

Evenings of Evangelization
With Rev. Alex Kratz, 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21, and Dec. 12, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The evening begins with a Holy Hour followed by small-group discussions, teaching and fellowship. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Clothing bank
Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Nov. 22, Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

The Brother's Grimm
Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School will perform "The Brother's Grimm: Out of Order" 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, in the gym at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church and School, 9600 Leverage, Redford. Come enjoy a fun-filled comedy performed by students in grades 5-8.

St. Andrew Day service
10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, at Garden City Presbyterian Church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Kris Hunt, of the St. Andrew Society, returns as Piper in full uniform. Refreshments will be served in fellowship hall after service. Adult Bible study is at 8:30 a.m. with youth Sunday school and child care at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible with large print order of service and an elevator. Everyone is welcome. For information, call (734) 421-7620.

Thanksgiving Eve service
Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church will hold a Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 9600 Leverage, Redford. All are welcome to join in worship and thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day dinner
Don't be alone for the holiday. Come to Our Lady of Loretto Family Center 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, at Six Mile and Beech Daly. For reservations, call (313) 534-9000 on or before Monday, Nov. 24.

Bethany together dance
8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 29, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service drive, east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Limited to the first 450 paid admissions only. Please wear proper attire. Cost \$12. For more information, call Loretta at (586) 264-0284.

Special needs class
Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia is looking for special needs teens and young adults (up to age 25) interested in participating in a course designed

to help them learn about the basics of the Christian faith. The day and time of the course will depend on those interested. To get the most out of the course, students should possess basic communications skills (listening and speaking). Call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail at elc-ed@around-detroit.biz.

Volunteers needed
The Salvation Army invites the community to partner with it this holiday season. Opportunities range from adopting a family or child to bell ringing, Christmas in-take assistance, and many others. Sign up by calling volunteer coordinator Sandy Kollinger at (734) 722-3660 or online at www.ringbell.org and choosing Wayne/Westland. The Salvation Army is at 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer.

Grief workshop
Presented by Karen Jinnett from New Hope Center for Grief Support, began 7-8:45 p.m., Monday, Oct. 27, for eight consecutive weeks at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth. No charge. To register, call (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221.

Global gifts
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, through Dec. 17, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willis, at Bates, north of Maple and a block west of Old Woodward. The Fair Trade resource offers foods such as rice, chocolates, coffee, and soup mixes that promote economic justice around the globe. Also offering textiles, jewelry and handmade artisan crafts from around the world. (248) 644-0550.

Prayer hour
Cherry Hill United Methodist Church holds an hour of prayer and inspiration at 7:30 p.m., every Thursday with Rev. Merlin Pratt, at the church, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton. Call Pat Beggs at (734) 453-3287 for more information.

Caregiver's support group
St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

UPCOMING

The Nativity movie
7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Rd., Livonia. Desserts will be served. All are welcome to attend this free event. For more information or to sign-up call (734) 422-1470.

Kids Christmas craft days
Deadline is Dec. 4 to register for Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, for ages 5

years through 5th grade, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Rd., Livonia. Kids will enjoy creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. All are welcome to attend. Suggested donation of \$3 per child. For more information or to sign-up, call (734) 422-1470.

Advent presentation
Are we ready for the Coming of Christ that is, His Second Coming? Through Scripture, food and drink, reflect on and delight in preparing for Christ's arrival 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Bixman Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. No charge, but RSVP by calling (734) 425-5950. Presenter is David Conrad, M.A. Theology.

Silent Night
An Advent Service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial at Beck, Plymouth. Call (734) 453-0326. While Advent is a time to acknowledge the beauty of the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sadness. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, caring for a terminally ill family member or facing unemployment, divorce or financial hardship, the joyfulness of the season may be overwhelming. Through stories of endurance from members of our community, inspirational music, and scripture readings we will seek together the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of Christmas.

Music at St. John's
A Festival of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, with the parish's music groups; Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

Detroit Lutheran Singers
Celebrate CHRISTmas concerts 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Rd., Canton, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$10 (\$7 for seniors and students age 12 and older) and will be available at the door. For advance tickets, call (248) 988-6715. For more information, visit www.detroitluthersingers.com.

Christmas Cookie Walk
Too busy to bake? Buy cookies by the pound from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago Rd., between Beech-Daly and Inkster Road, in Redford. (313) 937-2120

Bethany monthly dance
8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service

drive, east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Dance lesson this month, dancers choice, cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call (734) 261-5716 for details.

Adult choir concert
The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Ray Schmidt, presents its 27th Annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Rd. (north of Six Mile), Livonia. The cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St. Aidan Christian Service Commission to aid those in need during the holiday season. Call (734)425-5950. Tickets will be available at the door on the day of event.

All-you-can-eat pancakes
The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support
Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous
Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelts and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service
Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverage, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Course V, called "Aquinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Choral rehearsals
Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

New worship schedule
Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study
St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change
Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship

schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Wednesday activities
Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner
All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration
St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule
11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship
The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Reformed Protestant services
The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting
An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kocpzyński, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule
Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry
Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes
Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class
Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Thrift store
Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule
9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service

with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service
A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Worship service
10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries
With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule
Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship
11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services
10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Men's breakfast
Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings
The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverage, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

MOPS groups
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club
Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

Passages
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DANIEL C. DeGRAFF
Age 81, of Bloomfield Hills. At home on November 14, 2008 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Survived by his wife of 56 years, Phoebe Campbell DeGraff; daughters Drieka DeGraff and Gretchen (Frank) Newman; and granddaughters Anna and Grace Newman. Dan's favorite pastime was sailing off the shores of Lake Huron where he built a cottage for his family. Service at Great Lakes National Cemetery will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Bloomfield Township Adult Day Service, 2222 Franklin Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.

JOHN A. MacDONALD
Age 88, of White Lake, MI, formerly of Birmingham. Passed away Tuesday, November 11, 2008. He was born December 5, 1919 in St. Louis, MI, the son of John R. and Etta L. (Rehle) MacDonald. Beloved husband of the late Mary E. (Hardy) MacDonald (7/13/2007). Dear father of Bruce (Linda) of West Bloomfield, Jack of Pennsylvania and Suzanne (Dennis) of New Hampshire; dear grandfather of Trina, Alexis and Robert; great-grandfather of Nolan. Also survived by his brother, Edward of Howell. John was a veteran of WWII and had served in the Army. He was a consultant for commercial truck sales, member of First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Birmingham Blue Lodge #44, F. & A.M., the Scottish Rite and enjoyed the Birmingham Senior Men's Club. John deeply enjoyed family, friends and his pets. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Arrangements by MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Please leave remembrances on the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

DONNA MARIE CARI
Age 77, of Frankfort (formerly of Livonia and Farmington Hills), passed away on November 14, 2008 following a brief battle with cancer. Donna was born on May 1, 1931 in Detroit, MI to Warren and Lillian Landry. She graduated from St. Ambrose High School in 1949, and married theatre group sweetheart Patrick Cari in April, 1955. She was active in local church activities and a long-time employee of the Livonia Observer. Donna is survived by her brother Joseph Landry of Naperville, IL; four children William Cari, Catherine Bishop (Cari), Paul Cari, and Elizabeth Heuer (Cari); and four grandchildren Amy Cari, Brian Cari, Tess Heuer, and Jonathon Heuer. A memorial service and late luncheon is planned for 4pm on Thursday, November 20, 2008, at the Italian American Club, 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 953-1137. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Professional services by Jowett Family Funeral Home, Benzonia.

NANCY C. WILKINS
Long time Westland resident. Age 67. Died October 16, 2008 at her home in Henderson, Nevada. Nancy was born November 12, 1940 to Clifford and Ruby Moore. She is survived by brother and sister-in-law, James and Lenore Moore; brother, David Moore; sister-in-law, Yvonne Moore; sister, Faye Niernan; sister and brother-in-law, Julie and Wayne Tutor; and many nieces and nephews. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Wilkins; and her brother, Martin Moore.

OBITUARY POLICY
The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obit c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318

For more information call: Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Jennifer or Charolette

MARK E. LIST
Age 54. Of Farmington, MI. Passed away November 16, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

TANYA MICHELLE (COTTON) ANDERSON
Age 48. Of Farmington Hills, MI. November 12, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home.

New pastor tackles job of rebuilding congregation

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Rev. Merlin Pratt has one big task to accomplish as the new pastor of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church in Canton — it's his job to rebuild the congregation.

Over the last 175 years the numbers have dwindled to about 40. Pratt thinks many Christians are seeking the comfort of a smaller church but wants to see a few more faces in the pews, especially for the Sunday School for adults at 9 a.m.

Cherry Hill United Methodist is a historic place of worship. Organized in 1834, the first church was built the next year. Pratt says much of the wood from the original structure was used in barns and homes in the area when the present church was built in 1882.

"My purpose is to help restore the church to its place of prominence in the community," said Pratt. "It's a historic place but we have somehow slipped out of sight. It's located in Cherry Hill Village at the corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads, but you can see the spire from all over."

In recent years the church has lost members who worked in the auto industry and had to leave to find employment. While Pratt

is not making any major changes to attract church goers, he is adding a 7:30 p.m. Thursday prayer service to bring the faithful together more often. He's also trying to attract younger people by incorporating praise music into the traditional service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

"We're starting to see results. The mood is lighter," said Pratt. "The prayer service is a meaningful place to meet in the middle of a busy week. On Sundays we have world class pianist and teacher, Andrew Song, to accompany the services and I play guitar. Because it's small it's really quite interesting. Some people want the anonymity of a huge church, but some people want to be comfortable."

MARRIED AND MINISTERS

Merlin has been settling into the church since arriving with his wife, Rev. Kay Pratt, in late summer. Both Merlin and Kay were relocated to make sure area churches survive. She serves as pastor of Denton Faith United Methodist Church in Belleville but shares the parsonage of the Canton house of worship with her husband of 17 years. The unique situation allows the two pastors to exchange and expand upon ideas for tending their flocks.



Rev. Merlin Pratt recently moved to Canton with his wife, the Rev. Kay Pratt. Merlin is the new pastor at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, Kay is at Denton Faith United Methodist Church in Belleville.

The Pratt's ministries seem to go hand in hand. In fact it's hard to imagine one without the other as they sit talking about their goals.

The couple originally met in the seminary in Illinois and since then have shepherded churches on the west side of the state. Most recently they completed two years

as missionaries in Jamaica and in the past served in Appalachian missions in southeast Ohio and Indian missions in Oklahoma. He grew up in Jackson County and worked as a structural steel fabricator before God called him into ministry in the late 1980s. Kay grew up in Indiana. The two have five



Rev. Merlin Pratt (left) and his wife, the Rev. Kay Pratt (right) spent two years serving in the ministry in Kingston, Jamaica.

children and 12 grandchildren.

"Faith doesn't have a parsonage and is only part time, but allows me to go on missions," said Kay Pratt. "Faith partners with a church in Liberia where they're building a church. I'm going on a Jamaica mission trip this summer and am involved with local missions like the food pantry, shoebox and coat drives. It's a mission-oriented church. The youth meet during worship, a blended service of contemporary and traditional with praise music.

We're getting ready to start Advent Bible Studies, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1. Tuesday is the contemporary youth service at 5:30 p.m. to start at Advent and continue on. We have a total of 50 in attendance on Sunday morning."

For more information about Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, visit cherryhillumc.org or call (734) 495-0035. To learn more about Denton Faith, call (734) 233-4065.

lchomin@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2145

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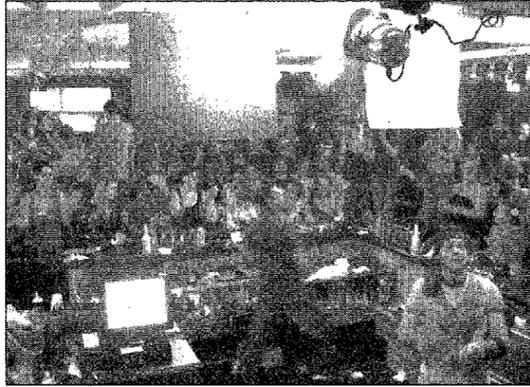
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<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies-English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>	<p>"More than Sunday Services" Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM Sunday School & Nursery 9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert</p>	<p>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 a.m. only Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Milton Schemm 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (Just East of Inkster Road) (313) 278-5755 Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m. http://ourchurch.com/member/immanueldbrhills The Friendly Church on the Trail</p>
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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

P.Y. STIX
FROM PAGE D1

ics of scary movies, funny films, *The Simpsons*, *The Family Guy* and pop culture. On Tuesdays there's bean bag "Toss Across" games and on Monday beer pong. Every night the week, patrons can stand on the chairs and dance, and bartenders perform trick-like moves with their booze bottles similar to Tom Cruise in *Cocktail* or the women in *Coyote*

Ugly. Allen's brother spins music under the name DJ Tack, playing alternative, top 40, country and more. "He may play the Blues Brothers, or dueling banjos," Allen said. "It's like Cancun minus the sand." P.Y. Stix attracts a younger crowd of 20 and 30 somethings at night, but "you might see someone in their 50s or older here and they will have fun too," she said. Weekdays, the tone is completely different during the afternoon hours.



At P.Y. Stix in Livonia there's a different party theme every night. Here is a typical crowded Saturday night, with bartenders and the guests dancing and playing games together.

"That's when we have the work people who just come in for a regular business lunch," Allen said. "We serve wraps, salads, wings..." There's seven large television screens for sports fans, never a dress code and drink specials here include "gator bombs" which is a drink of Gatorade, rum, sugar and ice and "cherry bombs" which is vodka or rum, grenadine syrup and sometimes cherries.

The martini menu is limited. This is more of a Bud/Bud Light/Killian's crowd. "We just started serving Miller on draft and on Sundays during football games we offer Bud Light on draft," Allen said. So, if the economy has you down and you want a spring break this fall, P.Y. Stix has the wild vibe if you like it loud and extremely social.

SPOTLIGHT
FROM PAGE D1

awards in Spotlight Player's version of the Oscars — a best supporting actor and a best supporting actress nod respectively.

"I find as my memory goes I enjoy being a director more than being an actor," Cuba joked. "As an actor you shape one character, you tell the story of one character. As a director, you influence the shape of the story of all the characters."

"I do definitely look at community theater as cooperative storytelling."

And the tale his cast of 19 will take on this month requires cooperation to bring two of very different families to life, as it seemed in the 1930s. "I had never heard of the play," Cuba admitted. When the selection committee chose *You Can't Take it With You* several Spotlight members told him "this is your kind of play."

And it turned out they were right.

The message of the show spoke to Cuba, as he hopes it also will resonate with audiences. And that message was, he said: "If you're not having fun why are you doing it?" It's a sentiment that applies to life, Cuba said, though not without its consequences. "You always have the choice to choose your heart's desire," he said.

TWO FAMILIES

The production follows three generations of a non-traditional family — one that includes an aspiring ballerina, a xylophone player who enjoys using a printing press, and a playwright who found her calling when a typewriter was accidentally delivered to the house by mistake. When one of the more conserva-

tive members of the family, Alice Sycamore, falls for her boss, Tony Kirby, the son of a wealthy tycoon, two worlds collide.

"Tony and Alice are in love," Cuba explained. "Alice is trying to balance two wildly different families." And it won't be easy, as Cuba hinted at an Act II breakup.

Cuba began casting the roles — many of which require a memorable, eccentric character — in September. "Two-thirds of a director's job is getting the right cast," he said. "So far I've been very lucky." By the end of the month rehearsals were well on their way. The show includes Canton residents Jerry Carney, Dan McKane, Meg DaPonte, Pat McKane, Linda Pohl, Tim Chanko, James Day, Joe Cone and John Chew; Westland residents Reuben Ellman, David Zolotarchuk and Linda Trygg; and Livonia residents Lisa Brawley and Richard Holland; and requires three-hour rehearsals, three nights a week.

And this week, the cast is running through the show almost nightly and working within the constructed set with props and costumes. The set for *You Can't Take it With You* is an expansive one, according to Cuba. Many of its pieces were borrowed from previous shows, like the recently-wrapped *Hello Dolly*.

Cuba noted that for those interested in participating in community theatre, Spotlight Players truly does rely on open casting. While he admits the group does have its regular actors who audition show after show, directors remain open-minded and will cast whomever might be best for the part.

To volunteer or learn more about the group, visit www.spotlightplayers.net.

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ANNA [R] TRAITOR [PG13] THE HOUSE BUNNY [PG13] DEATH RACE [R] THE LONGSHOTS [PG] TROPIC THUNDER [R] WALL-E [G] JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH [PG] STEP BROTHERS [R] MIRRORS [R] WANTED [R] KUNG FU PANDA [PG13]</p> <p>CALL FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p> <p>EMAGINE THEATERS ONLINE TICKETS www.emagine-entertainment.com CALL 888-319-3456</p> <p>VOTED BEST MOVIE THEATRE 2006 BY THE DETROIT NEWS GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE! EMAGINE THAT!</p> <p>Make Your Phone Your Movie Ticket at www.mbo.com</p> <p>NO COMMERCIALS ONCE THE PREVIEWS BEGIN!</p> <p>Digital Projection On All Screens "A Perfect Picture Every Time!"</p> <p>DP-Digital Presentation "Luxury" Seating OPEN AT 11:30 AM</p> <p>EMAGINE CANTON 39535 Ford Road Canton Twp. (East of I-275, South Side of Ford Road)</p>	<p>COCKTAILS SERVED! 888-319-3456</p> <p>11/20/08 TWILIGHT [PG13] AT 12:01 A.M. 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Stand-up comic having good year

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER



Mike Stanley

It's been a good year for Mike Stanley despite the economy. Or perhaps because of it.

"I've had great crowds the last couple months, even though the market crashed," said Stanley, 30, a stand-up comedian.

Maybe, he speculated, people need humor even more when times are tough.

"Everybody is so down. They need that release."

Stanley, a Redford native who lives in Chicago, Ill., returns to the area for Thanksgiving and Christmas week performances.

He'll be at Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia at the 8 p.m. show Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 26, and at Chaplins Comedy Club, Clinton Township, Nov. 28 and 29.

He's also scheduled to be at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak on Dec. 26 and 27.

He's looking forward to appearing at Joey's, where he got his start and where he will close the show. At Joey's, comic and comedy teacher Bill Bushart of Redford first encouraged him to try stand-up when he performed during open mic sessions there.

"He's a funny guy," said Bushart, when he reached for comment. "He's got good pop culture humor, he has a message, and he's very entertaining on stage."

"When you're doing comedy, it's about survival and Mike has stuck with it."

Stanley said his first success with comedy came in a show as a student at Pierce Junior High in Redford, when he told comic Stephen Wright's jokes for a contest and won second place.

Initially he followed his dad, George Stanley, retired Redford Township Fire Department Battalion Chief, into fire fighting.

While working as an emergency medical technician, he began getting comedy bookings and about six years ago decided to pursue stand-up comedy full time.

"I started working all the clubs in Michigan, then had the

opportunity to work in Chicago, and around the Midwest," he said.

Stanley describes 2007 as a "rough year." "I was touring relentlessly."

"In retrospect it afforded me the ability to really craft my act."

This year, "I was just named the 2008 Best Stand-up Comedian in Chicago by the *Chicago Reader*," an alternative newspaper. "I also just signed a deal with Stand Up! Records."

Stanley said his topics range from his girlfriend to politics.

"It's geared to a more mature audience," he said. He knows his proud mom, Mary Ann, may have a front row seat, however, and his material isn't something he wouldn't want her to hear.

Stanley says reading the newspaper provides fresh material, although he tends to veer away from very topical humor because it has a "shelf life."

"We live in such strange times right now," he said. "It's great fodder for comedy."

"I'm just thankful that I get to do it," he said of his act.

Joey's Comedy Club is located at 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 261-0555.

Chaplins Comedy Club is located at 34244 Groesbeck Highway, Clinton Township. Call (586) 792-1902.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle is located at 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak. Call (248) 542-9900.

GET OUT

Send items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Lana Mini, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or e-mail lmini@hometownlife.com.

ART

Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.

Art Leaders Gallery: Holiday trunk show with 20 to 50 percent off featured artists, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.

Art-Rageous Gallery: 35 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, (586) 307-3604.

Biddle Gallery: 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-4779, www.biddlegallery.com.

Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Up & Coming Artists Guild, 14084 Lakeside Blvd., Shelby Township, (586) 913-3773.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

Birmingham Conference Center: 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham.

Birmingham Unitarian Church: 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 647-2380.

Bohemian National Home Gallery: 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohousse.htm.

Cary Gallery: Photographs by Nancy Stocking and by Ron Teachworth, through Dec. 13, 226 Walnut, Rochester, (248) 651-3656.

CPDP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpdp.com.

Detroit Artist Market: Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit.

DM Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.

Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856.

Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553-6261, www.suzannebauman.com.

First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham.

GalleryVT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/village-theater, www.vsg-art.com.

Galleria at Orchard Lake: "Insights" by sculptor Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman, through Nov. 30, Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345.

Habatat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habatat.com.

Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 432-5448.

Lawrence Street Gallery: Alice Frank: Frame of Mind, through Nov. 29; Little Things Mean A Lot! Competition, Dec. 3-24; reception, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 5, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

Lemberg Gallery: Jane Hammond "People, Places and Things," through November, 23241 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.

Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540.

Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4487, www.lotusarts-gallery.com.

Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gergano, Susan Beiner and many others.

HOLIDAY

FROM PAGE D1

Hear the Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis, Dec. 18-19, The Masonic Temple Theatre, Cass and Temple streets, Detroit. Tickets \$25-\$68. (248) 645-6666.

On Film

Penn Theatre: In celebration of the theater's 67th anniversary catch *It's a Wonderful Life* and a live performance by the Belleville Brass, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 or the film only 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; *White Christmas* is showing 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 and *Polar Express* is showing at 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 19-21, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21.

Redford Theatre: It's a double dose of holiday cheer at this Old Redford historic theater, beginning with *Miracle on 34th Street*, 8 p.m. Dec. 5-6 and 2 p.m. Dec. 6; tickets \$4. And then sing your heart out to *White Christmas*, 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; tickets \$4. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.

On Canvas

Paint Creek Center for the Arts:

Get ready for handmade holiday-themed works in glass, ceramic, fiber and more with *Holiday Objects Up and Down*, Nov. 22 to Jan. 3, 2009, at 407 Pine Street, Rochester. Call (248) 651-4110.

On Stage

The Nutcracker: The Joffrey Ballet performs this Tchaikovsky classic 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4-6, 2:30 p.m. Dec. 6 and noon and 5 p.m. Dec. 7, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Call (313) 237-3426 or visit www.michiganopera.org. Or see the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra and the Taylor Americana Ballet perform the show, 7 p.m. Dec. 6 and 2 p.m. Dec. 7, at Arts Auditorium, 123 Selden Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$33.50. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.shopthetmax.com.

Home for the Holidays: Join the DSO's holiday sing-along and stirring annual show, 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 18; 8:30 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 3 p.m. Dec. 21, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 576-5111.

Avon Players: See *A Christmas Story*, with shows Nov. 28-30, Dec 5-7, 12-14, at 1185 Washington Road, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 608-9077.

The Farmington Players: *It's*

a Wonderful Life, with shows Nov. 28 to Dec. 20, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 553-2955 or visit www.farmington-players.org.

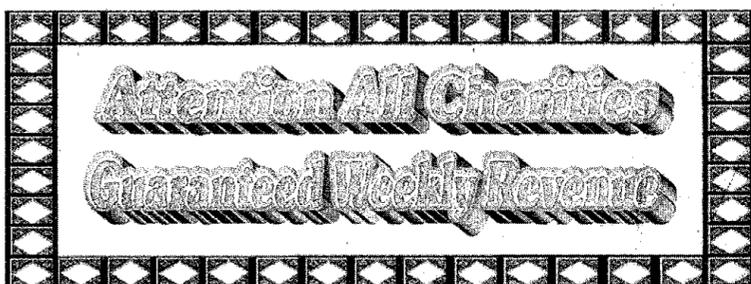
Detroit Opera House: Meet the Wicked Witch of the West before Dorothy traveled over the rainbow in *Wicked*, showing Dec. 10 to Jan. 4, 2009, 1526 Broadway, Detroit; tickets \$33-\$93. (248) 645-6666.

Fox Theatre: Like a Christmas Card set to music, see Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, running Nov. 19 to Dec. 28, tickets \$20-\$100, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Visit OlympiaEntertainment.com or call (248) 433-1515.

Joe Louis Arena: Practice your high-kicks for the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, running Nov. 21-23, \$24-\$75 at 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. Visit OlympiaEntertainment.com or call (248) 433-1515.

Meadow Brook Theatre: *A Christmas Carol* is a long-running tradition in Rochester. Don't miss out Nov. 28-Dec. 21, on the campus of Oakland University, in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$25-\$40. Call (248) 377-0300 or visit www.mbtheatre.com.

Compiled by
Stephanie Angelyn Casola



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Are you a Pear or Apple?

Fashion blogger helps women chose what fits them – and save a bundle

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Tanya Chisholm has four roles that happily consume her time.

As blogger of a popular fashion website, she informs readers about big sales and good fashion. The blog is titled "Fashion Sensei" — Sensei is the Japanese word for "teacher."

In her other fashion role, she founded Apples & Pears Personal Shopping. The Troy resident shops with women if they choose, or she'll do it for them.

Chisholm helps women update their wardrobe at stylish stores — and saves them money by knowing where the deals are and what clothing items will last for more than a season or two.

Her personal shopping business also is designed to show women over 30 how to dress for their body type.

"Every woman is generally shaped either like an apple or a pear," Chisholm said. "When knowing that, it helps them when they're trying to buy jeans, sweaters and jackets."

Chisholm is also the mother of two and a wife.

The combination means she, like many women, is busy. "When we're raising a family and/or working, we don't always have time to focus on trends," Chisholm said. "We have more important things to do. I find that many woman over the age of 35 are confused about what to buy."

They don't want to dress too young like a 21-year-old night-club hopper; nor do they want to look like they're working in a really bad office.

Apples & Pears Personal

TANYA CHISHOLM

What: Personal shopping company for moms; women on a budget and women who need help getting a "makeover" for that prospective job interview. Chisholm is also a fashion blogger.

Contact: (248) 877-0777 and e-mail: shopwithapplesandpears@comcast.net

Blog: fashionsensei.wordpress.com

Shopping is designed so that women on a budget can hire Chisholm to buy smart, current, long-lasting pieces that update their wardrobe. What we wore in our 20s isn't what we should be wearing now.

"I always said that if there were *Garanimals* for women (where women could put together outfits based on matching color-coded tags), they would," Chisholm said. "Because we are incredibly busy."

Apples & Pears doesn't have a *Garanimal*-type clothing line, but its philosophy can ease and quicken the shopping process. Buying jeans or a little black dress can be grueling if you don't know how.

"In this economy we need to watch every dollar. I want to help people so they don't throw their money away and so they look as good as they can."

Not only does Chisholm personal shop for clothing, she can help find children's and household items too.

She's a personal shopper for all budgets, she says.

And when she's not shopping, she's helping women online. Her fun Fashion Blog is



JOHN STORMAZANO
STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER

Tanya Chisholm created a website for women's fashion advice, and is also a personal shopper.

popular nationwide, but Chisholm focuses on topics for Michiganders.

This week on her blog, she told readers about Kate Spade's private 20 percent off sale. And, she offered a 20 percent coupon to Loehmann's to whomever needed it.

She gave the code to Bath & Body Works online 20-percent-off discount and links to \$10 off coupons at Victoria's Secret.

Fashion Sensei is a one-stop blog for all that's current in women's style. When H&M launched *Comme des Garçons'* line last week, she reminded us. When Marshall's offered a \$250 gift card, she provided the links. And when the Gap or Old Navy offers something special, even if not widely publicized, Fashion Sensei seems to get the scoop.

In an October blog, the Sensei talked about body lan-

guage during a job interview.

If it's true that first impressions are literally one-tenth of a second long, you can't scratch your head, look down, keep your hands in your pockets or use hand gestures. In September, she talked about a faux airbrushed face — and the importance of a silicone-based primer, before adding foundation, to fill in the lines on your face. The Sensei found Sephora's *bareVitamins'* PrimeTime that doesn't contain parabens.

The look results in smoother skin.

While the blog is for the public to save money, it also gives general fashion and beauty advice. Apples & Pears is the personalized service.

The bubbly Chisholm said it's also a great job because, after all, shopping can be fun when you know how to do it smart.

pink picks

This week's PINK Picks come courtesy of reader Mollie Dobersek, 21, of Canton. The Schoolcraft College student plans to enroll at Eastern Michigan University and major in journalism. She would enjoy writing a fashion column. Dobersek earned an honorable mention in our recent PINK Picks contest and we think it will be easy for you to see why:



Mollie Dobersek

Wear It!

skinny jeans, vests, high-waisted belted dresses/skirts, long tunics, liquid leggings, animal prints

DON'T Wear It!

Crocs footwear, bell-bottom jeans, jean jackets, loud logos

Kick It!

classy stilettos, ankle boots, slouchy boots

Tote It!

big bags, designer purses, slouchy bags

Face It!

Bare Minerals by Urban Decay, MAC bright bold eye shadow

Hair It!

Bangs, asymmetrical cuts, long bobs, edgy layers, high and low lights, textured hair

Smell It!

Juicy Couture, Gwen Stefani's Harajuku Lovers perfume set, Ed Hardy Love & Luck perfume

Read It!

Addicted by Saving Abel, *Paper Planes* by M.I.A.

See It!

Choke, *My Best Friends Girl*

DVD It!

What Happens in Vegas

TV It!

Showtime's *Dexter* (Season 1-3), *One Tree Hill*, *Rescue Me*, *The New 90210*

Drink It!

Mountain Peach Sangria, Mountain Dew Voltage

Experience It!

Skydiving, acupuncture massage, backpacking through Europe

Eat It!

sushi, garden burgers, crab cakes, hummus and pita bread

Read It!

CherryBomb by Carrie Borzillo-Vrenna, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson

Do It!

Yoga, meditate, plan a monthly "girl's night out"

Accessorize It!

fashion scarves, bows, chunky jewelry, big rings, rose earrings, vintage jewelry

The picks of Alison Nielsen of Farmington Hills will appear in next week's PINK. Nielsen also won an honorable mention in our recent Pink Picks contest.

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